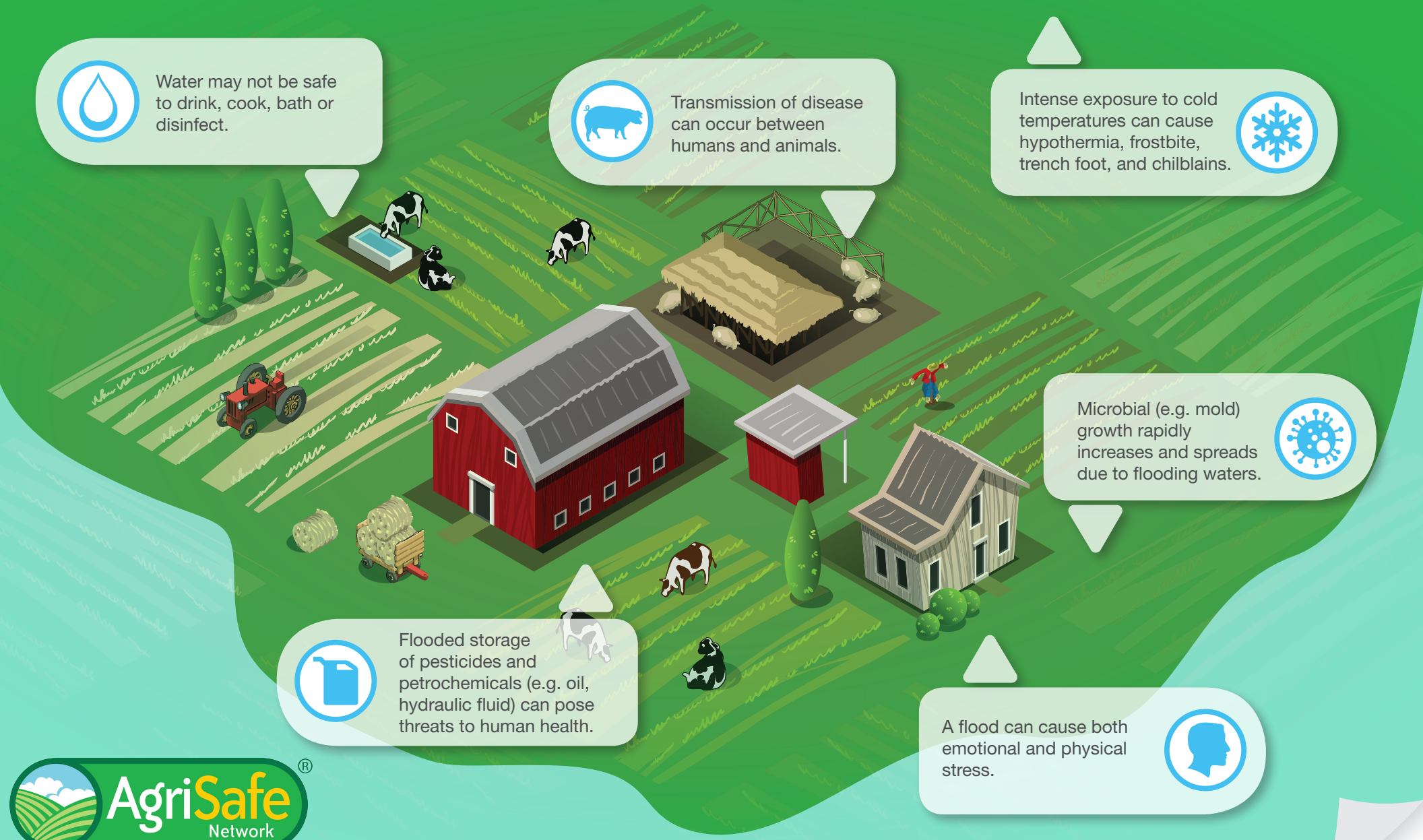
FARM FLOOD HEALTH THREATS

RISK FACTORS DURING WINTER RECOVERY



Water may not be safe to drink, cook, bath or disinfect.

Transmission of disease can occur between humans and animals.

Intense exposure to cold temperatures can cause hypothermia, frostbite, trench foot, and chilblains.

Microbial (e.g. mold) growth rapidly increases and spreads due to flooding waters.

Flooded storage of pesticides and petrochemicals (e.g. oil, hydraulic fluid) can pose threats to human health.

A flood can cause both emotional and physical stress.

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RISK FACTORS*

HUMAN & ANIMAL

Floods can potentially increase the transmission of communicable diseases: Water-Borne (Hepatitis A); Vector-Borne (West Nile Virus); Bacterial (Tetanus) spores and Fungal (Histoplasmosis) spores found in dust, dirt, animal droppings and animal carcass.



- Remove standing water
- Use only NIOSH approved N95 (or greater) respirators fitted to your face
- Use watertight, steel toe boots or waders, waterproof, cut resistant gloves
- Follow state guidance on carcass removal

WELL WATER

Water may not be safe to drink, cook or clean with after a flood. Water can become contaminated with microorganisms such as bacteria, sewage, heating oil, agricultural or industrial waste, chemicals and other substances that can cause serious illness.



- Sample and test the well water
- Conduct well and pump inspection
- Perform emergency disinfection of wells that have been flooded
- Follow health department drinking and bathing advisories

CHEMICALS

If a chemical, pesticide or hazardous waste spill occurs, chemicals might be released from barns, homes, and other sources into the environment. Chemical spills could release vapors or chemical fumes. Local and state authorities will provide further guidance.



- Wear appropriate clothing including cover-alls, liquid and chemical resistant boots or waders, gloves and safety glasses
- Use only NIOSH approved respirators, such as chemical cartridge respirator for organic vapors with added pre-filter

MOLD

Mold is part of the natural environment. Higher concentrations of mold and bacteria can be found after a flood. This causes the production of Microbial Volatile Organic Compounds (mVOCs), which emit chemical like odors and can become noxious respiratory irritants.



- Wear safety goggles
- Use only NIOSH approved N95 (or greater) respirators fitted to your face
- Use water-proof, cut resistant gloves
- Properly ventilate area

STRESS

After a natural disaster, you're dealing with the extra stress of current conditions, along with the daily stress of farm operations. Natural disasters create a tremendous amount of additional stress and anxiety. You may develop major depression, generalized anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder.



- Be pro-active, recognize potential signs of stress, anxiety, or depression
- Know your local resources, where you can go for help
- Adequate sleep (7-8 hours) is critical to the recovery process

COLD STRESS

Extremely cold or wet weather is a dangerous situation that can cause occupational illness and injuries such as hypothermia. Early symptoms of hypothermia include; shivering, fatigue, loss of coordination, confusion and disorientation. Prolonged exposure can also lead to frostbite, trench foot, and chilblains.



- Wear appropriate clothing to protect the ears, face, hands and feet.
- Move into warm locations during breaks; limit the amount of time outside.
- Carry extra gear, clothes and a thermos of hot liquid.
- Include chemical hot packs in your first aid kit

PREVENTION TIPS

FACT SHEETS

- Zoonotic Disease
- EPA Well Disinfection
- Respiratory Selection Guide
- Mental Health
- Cold Stress

This list of risk factors is not exhaustive. For example, other risks may include electric shock, drowning, falls and structural hazards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.AGRISAFE.ORG/FLOOD-CLEAN-UP

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