



REACT, RESPOND & RECOVER – BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

With Luke Harmer, AHDB

Sadly, this past year has seen a number of risks disrupt our industry and has proved that we just don't know what's around the corner. From relatively minor issues, such as a power cut, through to fire, flood, animal health, staff incapacity, loss of supply chains for both inputs and produce – there are many threats to your business operating effectively.

When faced with so many risks, it's important to be proactive rather than reactive. The time taken to plan for eventualities will generally be recouped by being prepared when something happens and will prevent a 'headless chicken' panic. Even just a list of emergency contact numbers that is shared with family and employees will save anxiety and stress if anything untoward happens. This is something that all farmers can easily start with and then develop into a more detailed contingency and continuity plan.

Producing a basic continuity plan isn't too challenging. In essence, you write down all of the products and services provided by your business and the resources that they depend on (staff, feed, fertiliser, machinery, buildings, utilities, etc.). Then, thinking about your situation, list all the potential risks which might disrupt your business and rate them by how severe they might be and how likely they are to happen. Next, concentrating on the severe and high-risk hazards first, plan out who would do what if such a situation were to arise. Finally, go through the plan with those involved in your business and test it where you can.



Luke Harmer, AHDB

You can find more support and guidance on producing a contingency plan, including a webinar and downloadable templates, here: ahdb.org.uk/business-continuity-planning