

Winterizing Farm Equipment & Facilities

Key Safety Points:

- **Equipment Maintenance:** Wisconsin winters can be harsh, so it's crucial to winterize your farm equipment to prevent mechanical failures during the cold season. Drain fuel lines, change oil, and lubricate moving parts to protect them from freezing.
- **Inspect Fuel Systems:** Ensure that fuel tanks are topped off and add fuel stabilizers to prevent condensation and freezing. Check fuel lines for leaks or cracks, as cold weather can make rubber components brittle.
- **Battery Care:** Cold temperatures can significantly reduce battery life. Remove and store batteries in a warmer location, and clean terminals to avoid corrosion. Consider using battery tenders to keep batteries charged during the off-season.
- **Water Systems:** Drain and properly store hoses, pumps, and water systems to prevent freezing and damage. Insulate pipes and tanks to ensure they function properly in cold weather.
- **Building Inspections:** Check roofs, walls, and doors for damage or gaps. Repair any holes or cracks in barn walls or sheds to prevent heat loss and minimize the impact of winter weather. Inspect insulation and ventilation systems for maximum efficiency.
- **Tool & Equipment Storage:** Store smaller tools and equipment in dry, heated areas to avoid rusting and freezing. Take inventory and make sure you have the tools needed for snow removal, equipment repairs, and cold-weather operation.