Agriculture & Investment Services
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Where to go for support

Contacts and information on support available for farmers, growers and everyone working in the primary sector when you need it most

Ministry for Primary Industries

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) actively promotes readiness in preparation for adverse events like drought, floods and earthquakes. If a major event occurs, MPI provides support during responses alongside other emergency management agencies and organisations, and then coordinates a range of recovery assistance measures.

When MPI classifies an adverse event as medium- or large-scale, extra measures to assist recovery in the affected regions will be made available. Primary sectors include meat, wool, dairy, arable farming, aquaculture, forestry, fisheries, horticulture, viticulture, bee-keeping, herb or flower growing, and poultry farming.

Find out more: www.mpi.govt.nz/how-we-classify-adverse-events

Animal welfare

When events mean that animals are at risk of health impacts, farmers are urged to continue making early decisions and seek advice from trusted advisers, veterinarians and support organisations. Your local veterinarian is well-placed to assist with decision making regarding actual or imminent animal health and welfare issues. Call them for advice – the earlier the better.

Alternatively, call MPI at any time if you have concerns about livestock welfare, including your own livestock. The sooner we know, the sooner we can work with farmers and veterinarians to help get things sorted.

Phone 0800 00 83 33, email **awem@mpi.govt.nz**

On Farm Support

MPI's On Farm Support (OFS) team provides on-the-ground assistance for farmers and growers across New Zealand.

The service connects farmers and growers with extension services, funding and advice that will help in the transition to more sustainable practices and in the planning for climate change and adverse weather events.

The OFS team builds on the important on-the-ground work already being undertaken by MPI across the country to help farmers and growers adapt to change.

Find out more: **www.mpi.govt.nz/on-farm-support**

OFS contact details: To access the service **phone 0800 707 133** or email **onfarmsupport@mpi.govt.nz**

Rural Support Trusts

Your local Rural Support Trust (RST) is a great place to start for free and confidential support and advice. This nationwide network is run by local people to help farming families and rural communities.

RSTs have facilitators trained to recognise issues with mental health/ wellbeing and can also put you in touch with services, including planning and management advice and mentoring, health information, Work and Income, or financial support.

A major storm, flood, earthquake or other adverse event can trigger extra funding for RSTs to assist farming families. They work with government, industry and support agencies to provide recovery support. Do you need to talk through your options? Are you concerned about someone – a family member, partner, employee?

Call 0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP) to arrange a free and confidential chat at a place that suits you:
www.rural-support.org.nz

Resources

Giving farmers and growers the skills and resources to live well, farm well and get the most out of life.
Farmstrong: www.farmstrong.co.nz

Stories and short videos on farmer and growers around the country.
Farmers Weekly On-Farm Stories:
www.farmersweekly.co.nz/s/on-farm-story

Tips to help you through and support your mental wellbeing:
www.allsorts.org.nz

Tools and resources for whānau dealing with tough times. Wellbeing for Māori: **www.depression.org.nz/maori**



Financial hardship

The Farm Debt Mediation Scheme helps farmers and other primary producers struggling with debt. The scheme uses neutral and independent mediators to help farmers and their creditors work through debt issues:
www.mpi.govt.nz/the-farm-debt-mediation-scheme-2

The Farm Business Advice Support Fund can be accessed through Rural Support Trusts to assist with the costs for professional advice for your farming business:
www.rural-support.org.nz/Help-Support/Financial-Pressure

Government assistance

Other government assistance is made available in times of hardship or localised events.

Inland Revenue has tax flexibility and income assistance options that may be made available in hardship or adverse events.

Phone **0800 473 566** or visit
www.ird.govt.nz/yoursituation-ind/extreme-weather

Work and Income has a range of financial assistance available for families whose incomes have been severely affected by adverse events. Everyone's situation is different so please talk to your local Work and Income office.

Phone **0800 559 009** or visit
workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/emergencies



Advice and information

As well as your neighbours, friends and farm advisers, other sources of information include:

Industry contacts and information list

Apiculture New Zealand **04 471 6254**	**www.apinz.org.nz**
Aquaculture NZ **03 548 8944**	**www.aquaculture.org.nz**
Beef + Lamb New Zealand **0800 233 352**	**www.beeflambnz.com**
DairyNZ **0800 4 324 7969**	**www.dairynz.co.nz**
Dairy Women's Network	**www.dwn.co.nz**
Federated Farmers **0800 327 646**	**www.fedfarm.org.nz**
Foundation for Arable Research **03 345 5783**	**www.far.org.nz**
Horticulture NZ **0508 467 869**	**www.hortnz.co.nz**
NZ Apples & Pears **06 873 7080**	**www.applesandpears.nz**
NZ Kiwifruit Growers Inc **0800 232 505**	**www.nzkgi.org.nz**
NZ Wine **03 577 2372**	**www.nzwine.com/en/**
NZ Young Farmers	**www.youngfarmers.co.nz**
Rural Women New Zealand **0800 256 467**	**www.ruralwomennz.nz**
Tupu.nz: help whānau connect with whenua Māori	**www.tupu.nz**
Your Vet	

In an emergency call 111

Well-being support and helplines

Text or call **NEED TO TALK?**	1737
Access & Choice: Free (early-intervention) support providers near you	**www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz**
Youthline **0800 376 633**	**www.youthline.co.nz**
FirstMate **0800 237 438**	**www.firstmate.org.nz**
Healthline: Free advice from registered nurses	0800 611 116
Rural Support Trusts **0800 787 254**	**www.rural-support.org.nz**
Alcohol Drug Helpline	0800 787 797
Gambling Helpline	0800 654 655
Your GP	

Rural Support

