



Support for rural people in the 2020 drought

Help and advice is available for you as droughts continue, and afterwards into recovery.

Call your Rural Support Trust: 0800 787 254.

There are 14 Trusts around the country, who work with Government, industry, and emergency services in events like drought. We can help connect you with professionals including farming or business advice, suppliers, financial information, health, and counselling services.

Rural Support Trust people understand rural agribusiness: dry stock, dairy, horticulture, forestry, cropping, poultry, and rural contracting.

Our services are free and confidential. We can talk over the phone or come to you.

Where else do I get information?

I'm a farmer or grower

Your industry association (B+LNZ, DNZ) is your first port of call for technical advice.

How do I get financial help?

- Talk to your accountant and bank as soon as possible.
- Talk to Work and Income if you need emergency income or emergency grants
- Farming families may be eligible for Rural Assistance Payments. Talk to your Rural Support Trust.
- Talk to Inland Revenue about flexibility for tax payments and eligibility for Working for Families Phone 0800 473 566.
www.ird.govt.nz/business-income-tax/extreme-weather-relief/
www.ird.govt.nz/topics/working-for-families

There are no cash payments for drought. Government funding of \$2 million is to help recovery in the primary industries. This includes funding recovery advice and supporting local organisations.

COVID-19

The combined effects of drought and COVID-19 are proving challenging. Big social events to combat isolation in drought are currently not an option.

We will be putting out advice and information regularly. Your go-to site for all updates on COVID-19 is <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

www.facebook.com/UniteAgainstCovid19/
[instagram.com/uniteagainstcovid19?igshid=1kkef1lqpsfcc](https://www.instagram.com/uniteagainstcovid19?igshid=1kkef1lqpsfcc)

Healthline: 0800 611 116

Need to talk? 1737

The next few weeks

Keep working on your feed budgets and stock planning.

Storms and e-cyclones may bring **heavy rain** onto hard dry soil. If significant rain is forecast, get ready for surface flooding and runoff by moving stock and feed to safe, dry places.

Weather sites

- www.niwa.co.nz/climate/information-and-resources/drought-monitor
- www.metservice.com/rural

Farming in drought advice

- www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/adverse-events/dealing-with-drought-conditions/
- www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/extreme-dry-management-toolkit
- www.dairynz.co.nz/business/adverse-events/drought/farming-through-the-drought/

Advice for lifestylers and hobbyists

Your animals need you to plan for them.

- Assess water needs – work out how much your stock will drink and assess against your water allocation or supply. **Allow for 60ml of water/kg liveweight per 24 hours.** Stock may drink more water in the heat and with supplementary feed.
- Keep an eye on climate predictions and soil moisture levels, especially on your own property.
- Assess your stock's ongoing feed requirements and do a feed budget. Allow for several weeks' supplementary feed after it rains to allow for pasture recovery.
- If you can't get enough feed and water to your animals, you need to think about destocking: either to another property or stock slaughter.
- Prioritise what stock should be moved off first, and book in several weeks in advance.
- Talk to your bank, accountants, vets, neighbours.
- If you have trouble looking after them or any concerns, seek help sooner rather than later.

Be kind to yourself, your family and your workers. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

Make a plan and set trigger points to make decisions or take action:

- Dates, stock condition, water restriction, feed availability.
- Ensure you all agree with the plan.
- When those triggers hit, action your plan.

Can I get help with feed and water?

- Contact feed suppliers and talk about options.
- Buy/ sell on www.agrihq.co.nz/feed-noticeboard
- Stay in touch with your Council
- Contact water suppliers to book in deliveries. Some carriers will deliver non-potable water for stock.

Work and Income has assistance for refilling water tanks due to drought. You have to meet criteria and you have to either own your property or rent it and be the person in charge of refilling the water tank. www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/water-tank-refill-01.html

Important names and numbers

If life or property is at risk call 111.

Livestock welfare MPI: 0800 00 83 33

Free counsellors text or call: 1737

Dairy NZ: 0800 4 324 7969

Beef + Lamb NZ: 04 473 9150

Horticulture NZ: 04 472 3795

Fonterra: 0800 656 568

Rural Women New Zealand: 0800 256 467

Federated Farmers: 0800 327 646

Inland Revenue: 0800 473 566

Work & Income: 0800 559 009

Your council:

Your vet:

Your GP:

Your water supplier:

Your neighbors:

Healthline: 0800 611 116

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www.rural-support.org.nz

