



# Feed in dry times – Get prepared early

Planning ahead for your feed needs and when you will get animals off the farm for processing is more important than ever when dry conditions are emerging or drought is on the cards. There are options and information available to support you practically, financially, mentally, and to help you maintain the welfare of your livestock.

## Talk it through

There are many people to talk to for advice on your situation and possible options available.

- Beef + Lamb New Zealand – [beeflambnz.com](http://beeflambnz.com)
- DairyNZ – [dairynz.co.nz](http://dairynz.co.nz)
- Federated Farmers – [fedfarm.org.nz](http://fedfarm.org.nz)
- Deer Industry New Zealand – [deernz.org](http://deernz.org)
- On Farm Support – [mpi.govt.nz/on-farm-support](http://mpi.govt.nz/on-farm-support)
- Your local veterinarian

These organisations all have experienced professionals who understand the challenges and can provide advice.

## Get help with feed planning

Getting a plan in place can help give you peace of mind.

Having a feed budget can help you:

- Calculate your feed demand
- Calculate your feed supply
- Investigate options to fill feed gaps
- Proactively make decisions.

Support is available from your local veterinarian, farm advisors, industry organisations and specialist services.

DairyNZ options during and after a drought:

[dairynz.co.nz/support/crisis-and-adverse-events/drought](http://dairynz.co.nz/support/crisis-and-adverse-events/drought)

Beef + Lamb New Zealand feed management:

[beeflambnz.com/news-views/feed-management-resources](http://beeflambnz.com/news-views/feed-management-resources)

Deer Industry New Zealand Drought Feeding and Management

[deernz.org/assets/Deer-Facts/DeerFact\\_DroughtFeeding\\_Web.pdf](http://deernz.org/assets/Deer-Facts/DeerFact_DroughtFeeding_Web.pdf)

## Key actions

- Plan for feeding your stock over the coming months.
- Be aware you may have extra stock to feed due to slower processing times at some meat processing plants.
- Book the required stock slaughter well in advance with your agent or meat processor.
- Look to increase supply of feed or reduce animal demand.
- If buying feed – act early. Order supplementary feed now while some is available.
- Work with your veterinarian to identify and prioritise animals to get off-farm earlier if necessary.
- Seek help if you're under pressure. There are people who can support you.
- Try Farmstrong – A nationwide wellbeing programme for the rural community: [farmstrong.co.nz](http://farmstrong.co.nz)
- You can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Feedsmart (basic feed calculator for sheep and beef):

[feedsmart.co.nz/#animalSelect](http://feedsmart.co.nz/#animalSelect)

## Rural Support Trusts

Local Trusts provide free and confidential support and can connect you with the services you need, whether financial, business or health-related.

[rural-support.org.nz](http://rural-support.org.nz)

0800 787 254 (0800 Rural Help)

## Neighbours and friends

Talk to neighbours or farmers you're close to in your community – they may have feed you can use or space for extra stock. They may also have useful advice or a trusted adviser to help you find solutions.

## Your local veterinarian

Your vet can help with the key information needed for planning – especially pregnancy scanning and body condition scoring. They can also provide nutritional advice (including for supplementary feeding), advise on animal health and welfare, and advise or assist with humane culling where required.

## Other trusted advisers and rural professionals

- Check your budget and talk to your bank if needed.
- A farm consultant is a great source of advice.
- **Talk to your feed merchant – some supplementary feed, including domestic grain and imported feeds such as PKE are still available. It can take from 10–12 weeks from ordering PKE to delivery, so you may need to order now.**
- Talk to your stock agent or meat processor and understand the current length of the delays. This will help you plan for feed and your animals' welfare.
- Nutrient companies have teams who can help.

## MPI resources and support

For more information visit [mpi.govt.nz/drought](https://mpi.govt.nz/drought)

MPI's On Farm Support regional teams provide on-the-ground support for farmers and growers. They can help navigate information, investigate opportunities, and access advice.

To get in contact:

- freephone 0800 70 71 33
- email [onfarmsupport@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:onfarmsupport@mpi.govt.nz)
- Detailed case studies on managing four sheep and beef farms through drought:
  - [Winterhome – Kekerengu, Marlborough](#)
  - [Ridgecliff – Banks Peninsula, Canterbury](#)
  - [The Homestead – Ward Beach, Marlborough](#)
  - [Attadale – Middlemarch, Otago](#)
- Info for lifestyle blocks:
  - [Animals affected by a heat wave](#)
  - [Animals affected by dry or drought conditions](#)

## Other resources

**DairyNZ's Early Response Service** – a free and confidential service available to dairy farmers experiencing challenging situations to get their animals and farms back on track.

- Call **0800 4 DAIRYNZ**
- [dairynz.co.nz/animal/welfare/early-response-service](https://dairynz.co.nz/animal/welfare/early-response-service)

Federated Farmers adverse events page – [fedfarm.org.nz/FFPublic/Support/Adverse\\_Events](https://fedfarm.org.nz/FFPublic/Support/Adverse_Events)

