

# Farming through 2020

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



Farmers, lifestylers and hobby farmers will all be recovering from the impacts of the 2020 drought and COVID-19 restrictions this year. There will be feed shortages and financial challenges for parts of rural New Zealand. To get through, keep planning ahead, and use the help available.

## Feed planning and co-ordination

These free services are available to **ALL** farmers and stock owners, nationwide. Call to talk through your feed plan to get through the coming months:

- Dry stock – **0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352)**
- Dairy sector – DairyNZ **0800 4DAIRY (0800 4 324 7969)**
- Other – AgFirst **0508 AGFIRST (0508 243 477)**

## Feed co-ordination service

A feed co-ordination service works alongside the free winter feed planning service.

Feed co-ordinators collate offers of feed available and work with the regional rural networks to match it to farms. The same 0800 numbers are the best way to talk to a feed co-ordinator as you need a feed plan first. More details and links are on MPI's website:

[www.mpi.govt.nz/drought](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/drought)

While feed co-ordinators do everything they can to source feed, there are no guarantees. The service does not buy or sell feed for

farmers nor subsidise transport. Some regional councils may offer subsidies through mayoral funds; check directly with your council.

## Sourcing feed

Once you have your feed plan, order in food as soon as you can.

Try:

- Your feed merchants
- Feed noticeboard <https://agrihq.co.nz/feed-noticeboard>
- TradeMe, your local facebook, farmer or lifestyle groups
- Your neighbours and friends.

If your plan shows you will need supplementary feed, order it now. Some imported feeds may take up to 12 weeks to arrive.

Research is available to help you make decisions about alternative feed types. Suppliers can advise on a mix of products to ensure your stock receive the best possible nutrition in these difficult times. Seek advice and talk to your veterinarian.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FARMING FAMILIES

### Inland Revenue

IR has tax flexibility and income assistance options in some cases including:

- Income equalisation
- Late filing and late payments for some income tax
- Provisional tax estimations
- Tax outstanding instalments
- Working for families tax credits.

Talk to your financial advisor.

Phone Inland Revenue on **0800 473 566**.

### MSD – Work and Income

MSD has several options:

**COVID-19 WAGE SUBSIDIES:** for employers, including sole traders, impacted by COVID-19.

**EMERGENCY BENEFIT:** Income and asset-tested financial assistance for people in hardship.

**SPECIAL NEEDS GRANT:** Non-taxable,

one-off payments for people to meet an immediate need. You may need to pay it back later. There are special grants for refilling home water tanks.

#### RECOVERABLE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS:

Non-taxable and interest-free financial assistance to non-beneficiaries to meet essential immediate needs for specific items or services. You will need to pay it back later.

**JOBSEEKER SUPPORT:** A weekly payment for people looking for full-time work, or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability.

**RURAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS:** RAPs are available in drought-affected regions, for farmers and growers who cannot meet essential living costs because of the event.

Phone Work and Income on **0800 559 009** or your Rural Support Trust on **0800 787 254** for Rural Assistance Payments.

There are options for businesses impacted by COVID-19. Call the COVID business helpline on **0800 500 362** for North Island, or **0800 50 50 96** for South Island.

### Rural Support Trust Farm Business Advice Support Fund

Managed by Rural Support Trusts and agreed with ASB, ANZ, BNZ, Heartland Bank, Rabobank, SBS Bank, TSB and Westpac. With a focus on debt management, the fund will provide up to \$6000 to pay for financial or business advice from an independent consultant.

Ask your RST for more information **0800 787 254**.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Farmers know to manage feed budgets and plan for weeks ahead, even after rain breaks the drought. If you are new to owning or managing livestock, don't rely on the weather coming right to solve things. Use the help and resources available.

If you have concerns about the welfare of livestock, contact:

- Your veterinarian for help with feed budgets, nutritional advice, body condition scoring, animal health programmes, and humane culling where required.
- DairyNZ's Early Response Service who support farmers where the wellbeing of livestock is a concern. Phone their free, confidential number: **0800 4 324 7969**.
- MPI Animal Welfare who can investigate and work with the farmer and their vet to resolve any issues. Phone **0800 00 83 33**.

Industry groups have advice and information to get through. All the links you need are on the MPI website: [www.mpi.govt.nz/drought](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/drought)

## Rural Support Trusts

Your local Rural Support Trust (RST) is a great place to start for a free and confidential chat. This nationwide network is run by local people who know farming.

RST facilitators are trained in helping people in stressful situations like a drought, and they run training and social events in their areas.

They can put you in touch with services, including planning and management advice and mentoring, health information, Work and Income, or financial support.

Are you a bit concerned about someone – a family member, partner, worker? Want to know what events are going on in your area? Need a chat? Call **0800 787 254** or [www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)



## Information and support

Free COVID-19 helpline: **0800 779 997**, 8am to 5pm, 7 days a week.

Livestock welfare MPI: **0800 00 83 33**

Free counsellors text or call: **1737**

DairyNZ: **0800 4 324 7969**

Beef + Lamb NZ: **04 473 9150**

Horticulture NZ: **04 472 3795**

Fonterra: **0800 656 568**

Rural Women NZ: **0800 256 467**

Federated Farmers: **0800 327 646**

Inland Revenue: **0800 473 566**

Work & Income: **0800 559 009**

Healthline: **0800 611 116**

Your council:

Vet:

GP:

Water supplier:

Neighbours:



## To farm well, you need to live well

International research shows that people who thrive have five things in common. Make the **BIG 5** a part of your life.

