



Feed Shortages – You can get through

In many regions, drought and the effects of COVID-19 restrictions have combined to create feed pressure for farmers. Now is the time to seek help and plan for the next few months.

There are a range of options available to support you practically, financially, and mentally, and help you maintain the welfare of your livestock. The welfare of your animals is your legal responsibility.

Talk it through

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

- **Beef + Lamb NZ** – www.beeflambnz.com/
- **DairyNZ** – www.dairynz.co.nz/
- **Federated Farmers** – www.fedfarm.org.nz
- **New Zealand Pork** – www.nzpork.co.nz/
- **Deer Industry New Zealand** – www.deernz.org

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

Feed planning support service

DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, AgFirst, Federated Farmers and MPI have a free phone-in feed planning support service for farmers and livestock owners across

New Zealand. You do NOT have to be drought-affected to use this free service, and it's open to all from lifestyle blocks to the largest stations.

To contact this service, call:

- **Dry stock sector** – Beef+Lamb New Zealand: **0800BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352)**
- **Dairy sector** – DairyNZ: **0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 3247969)**

North and South Island Feed Co-ordinators

There are two new feed co-ordinators assessing feed supply around the country and providing current information on feed availability. You can contact these co-ordinators on the two numbers above.

This sheet has useful information about feed budgeting and general support available. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/40082-getting-support-with-your-feed-planning-pdf>

Some specific information for the current situation is here:

- **DairyNZ 10 steps towards a successful spring**
- **Beef+Lamb New Zealand farmer checklist for feed shortages**
- **Federated Farmers COVID-19 Updates**
- **DairyNZ's ERS essential service** – The Early Response Service is free and confidential. It assists dairy farmers experiencing challenging situations to get their animals and farms back on track. This is considered an essential service under COVID-19 restrictions. We encourage farmers to contact us if they are concerned for a farmer or stock in their district. Call 0800 4 DAIRYNZ. <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/welfare/early-response-service/>

Talk to Manawātū District Council Rural Recovery

Manawātū District Council will connect you to our coordinators who are able to link you to the appropriate support, whether financial, business or health related. 06 323 0000 – rural.recovery@mdc.govt.nz

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 recommended professional to help you find solutions.

Your local veterinarian

Your vet can help develop a feed budget, provide nutritional advice (including for supplementary feeding), undertake pregnancy testing and body condition scoring to assist decision-making, advise on animal welfare issues, create animal health programmes, and advise or assist with humane culling where required.

What financial support is there?

1. **Talk to your bank**, your accountant or financial advisor regularly.
2. **Inland Revenue** has tax flexibility and income assistance options in some cases:

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

Phone Inland Revenue on 0800 473 566, Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-1pm.

3. **MSD** – Work and Income may be able to help in your situation.
- COVID-19 Wage Subsidies are available to support employers, including sole traders, impacted by COVID-19, and face laying off staff or reducing hours; and the COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme. If your business is significantly impacted by COVID-19, go to <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html> or call Work and Income.
 - There are special needs grants which can include needs like filling your household water tank
 - Rural Assistance Payments are available to help rural people and families – not businesses - in extreme hardship. Find out if you meet the criteria

Phone Work and Income on 0800 559 009

2020 Drought Recovery Advice Fund

This fund is to help farmers recover from the 2020 drought, and plan for future droughts. It will pay for up to \$5,000 (excluding GST) of professional advice to successful applicants.

Find out more mailing funding@mpi.govt.nz.

In an emergency call 111.

Key actions

- **Plan for feeding your stock over winter and into the spring.**
- **Be aware you may have extra stock to feed due to slower processing times at some meat processing plants.**
- **Look to increase supply of feed or reduce animal demand.**
- **If buying feed – act early. Order supplementary feed now while some is available.**
- **Book in required stock slaughter with your agent or meat processor.**
- **Seek help if you're under pressure. There are people who can support you.**
- **Try Farmstrong – A nationwide wellbeing programme for the rural community. www.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.**

A full list of support for the primary sectors during crisis and change is here:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/coronavirus/support-for-the-primary-sectors-during-the-covid-19-response/>

