



# Drought plan | Template

A written drought plan can remind you of what you need to do and when you need to do it. Looking ahead and focusing on the factors you can change or influence is an essential key to managing dry times effectively.

Forward planning helps you to spot opportunities that otherwise could be easily missed and take proactive action to limit your losses. It is never too late to plan ahead.

Livestock on hand Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Step 1

Class of stock	On hand	Value (\$)	To sell	Sale date	Keep and feed	Feed cost (\$)
1 <sup>st</sup> calf heifers						
Cows and calves						
Dry cows						
Bulls						
Weaner/yearling heifers						
Wearner/yearling steers						
1-2 year old steers						
<b>Total cattle</b>						
Maiden ewes with lambs						
Mature ewes with lambs						
Dry ewes						
Weaned lambs						
Hoggets						
Weathers						
Rams						
<b>Total sheep</b>						
<i>Other livestock</i>						
<b>Total other</b>						

## Fodder on hand

Date	Fodder	Quantity	Value

## Water

Estimated total usable water	ML*(A)
Stock water requirement per day for current stock numbers	ML/day (B)
Days of stock water available (divide A by B)	days

# Step 2

Fodder on hand will last until

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Pasture available will last until

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Water available will last until

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Take into account feeding for production, not just survival, and allow for increased energy requirements for pregnant and lactating breeders.

**Put your drought plan in writing with trigger points for action.**

## Set trigger points

Trigger points are predetermined points where a decision must be made.

Examples of trigger points include:

1. Water supply becomes unpredictable or insecure
2. Feed requirements outstrip supply
3. Feed costs reach a certain point
4. Funds available to purchase feed fall below a certain point
5. Reaching a date with no rain for crop or pasture growth.



Action	Planned date	Review of progress	Achieved
<i>E.g. Contact agent to assess stock suitable for sale</i>	<i>4/09/2023</i>	<i>Agent visiting 10 am 4/09/2023</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>E.g. Order cotton seed</i>	<i>1st of each month</i>	<i>20T ordered for delivery 2/09/2023</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

## Financial resources:

Know your numbers. Your financial position will be a major determining factor regarding the options you have available and the decisions you need to make. Keep financial records up to date so you can regularly assess cash flow and keep yourself in control.

Assess your current financial situation and complete a 12 month cash flow projection to forecast the impact of the drought on your financial situation. Rural financial counsellors provide free and confidential assistance with helping you assess your financial position.

## Implement your plan

Know and act on the critical dates you have identified. Continue to stay informed.

At each point look for support, advice and information through these contacts:

- [www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au](http://www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au)
- Local Land Services livestock officers and biosecurity staff
- Livestock agents
- Rural financial counsellors.

## Remember to look after your most important asset – you and your people!

It is essential to look after yourself so that you are in good shape to continue to monitor your business position, performance and outlook and make decisions in a timely manner as the season progresses.

You are your business's most important asset yet often the most easily neglected one as far as regular care and maintenance goes. Take proactive steps to actively manage stress and keep your mindset positive.

Consider how you might be able to take a break. Building and using support networks in your community will mean you have access to timely information relevant to your needs.

Seeking help when you need it from various support services will see you in the best shape possible to minimise losses and recover quickly when it does rain.

## For more information, advice and help:

### NSW Droughthub

[www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au](http://www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au)

### Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines

[www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au)

We acknowledge being in drought is a highly stressful and emotional situation. It can be hard to prioritise your own well-being as you manage competing demands on the farm and at home. Talking to someone could help ease some of your concerns.

Please consider talking to your GP, or utilise one of these free services, who will be able to provide you with strategies to help you cope.

If you're concerned about your own or someone else's mental health, you can contact:

### NSW Mental Health Line

1800 011 511 for advice

### Lifeline

13 11 14

[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

### Beyond Blue

1300 224 636

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

### National Centre for Farmer Health

[www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)

### Rural Adversity Mental Health Program

[www.ramhp.com.au](http://www.ramhp.com.au)

