

PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

If you're expecting a significant flood, this fact sheet will help you prioritise tasks before the water arrives.

IMMEDIATE

PEOPLE

1. Is everyone on the farm aware of the impending flood?
2. Are any houses on the property prone to flooding or in the path of a potential slip?
3. Consider hiring a generator, in preparation for post-flood recovery. Lack of electricity is often a major issue.
4. If you are under control, do any of your neighbours need help?

LIVESTOCK

1. Are stock on higher ground and in secure paddocks? Check electric fences are working.
2. Do stock have access to shelter? This is important if strong winds are also expected. Stock lose body temperature when wet; add high winds and stock will be particularly vulnerable.

3. Ensure access to clean stockwater.
4. If it's calving or lambing time, keep a close eye out for metabolic disorders.
5. Do you need and/or have supplementary feed on hand to keep animals well fed during the flood event and the days immediately following? If not, you can call Federated Farmers' Feedline on 0800 FARMING (327 646).
5. Ensure adequate feed, but manage the transition to a new feed type appropriately (if possible, introduce grain in limited amounts to reduce the risk of acidosis).
6. Are other animals such as farm dogs, pets and horses all safe?

OPERATIONAL

1. As soon as you get word to move stock, act immediately.
2. Make sure tractor and/or bulldozer are ready to go when needed.
3. Do you need extra labour before the flood arrives? Call 0800 FARMING (327 646) for skilled volunteers (see below for a link to the fact sheet "Health and safety of volunteers working on farms post-flood" to understand the responsibilities for organisers of volunteers, farmers and volunteers).



LONG-TERM

If flooding is a regular seasonal event on your property, there are long-term strategies which can help you come through a flood event with less damage and loss.

LIVESTOCK

1. Have adequate supplementary feed on hand.
2. Ensure stock are in good condition. Healthier stock are more resilient, which gives you more management options during difficult times, such as floods.

LAND

1. Consider the strategic planting of willows or poplars (see below for a link to “Trees for the farm” – a booklet that will guide you through the planting decisions and logistics, the economics and ongoing management requirements).

OPERATIONAL

1. Is it desirable and economic to buy a generator? Maybe in partnership with one or two neighbours?
2. Are all pumps on the farm above flood levels?
3. Can you phone out, if you lose power? Either via an old-style telephone that doesn't require power or a cell phone. If cell phone, do you have a means to recharge it, such as a car charger?
4. Review your insurance cover.

CONTACTS

Rural Support Trust: 0800 787 254

Federated Farmers: 0800 327 646
(Also the “Feed Line”)

B+LNZ RESOURCES

 www.knowledgehub.co.nz

PDF DOWNLOADS

- Trees for the farm booklet
- A guide to feed planning for sheep farmers – extensive (60-page) booklet
- Beef cow body condition scoring booklet
- Recovering from a flood fact sheet
- Health and safety of volunteers working on farms post-flood fact sheet
- Metabolic disease in ewes fact sheet
- Rumen acidosis in ewes fact sheet

MODULES

- Feed fundamentals – to identify animal energy requirements
- Body condition scoring (sheep)

MOBILE APP

FeedSmart – visit www.feedsmart.co.nz

CONTACT

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