



RECOVERING AFTER FLOODS

Southland 2020

- Take stock of feed resources and make a plan for the coming weeks and months.
- Put together a feed budget to identify feed deficits.
- Options may include grazing stock off farm, buying in feed such as grain, establishing a cereal greenfeed crop (such as oats, triticale or ryecorn although they do have feed quality limitations) or perennial pasture for use in late spring (talk to your agronomist about options).
- It is important to have realistic expectations. It is too late to establish a short-term ryegrass for winter feed. Rather accept and plan for feed deficits this winter and look to maximise production next spring.
- There is detailed information about re-grassing silt damaged pastures in the B+LNZ Flood Recovery Fact Sheet along with a decision tree to help clarify thinking around the post-flood recovery process. beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/flood-recovery-fact-sheet
- Talk to your fertiliser rep about the use of urea or the specific nutrient requirements of silt-damaged pasture.
- Any forage or feed contaminated by flood water should not be fed to stock, particularly breeding stock. If in doubt, talk to your animal health professional.
- Water-damaged baleage could potentially become an environmental hazard if not dealt with correctly. Environment Southland is wanting to hear from farmers who are would like help disposing of baleage. Once they get a clear picture of the scale of the problem they will work with industry and farmers to find solutions. (See below)
- Talk to your business support people, such as bank managers, accountants, agronomists and vets about managing the business during the recovery period.
- Assess pasture damage- pastures under water for two to three days will probably recover, any longer and the likelihood of pasture loss increases.
- Soil test silted paddocks.
- Dispose of water contaminated baleage.
- Carry out a feed inventory and complete a feed budget. Make a plan to meet short and long-term feed and production goals.
- Consider ways to reduce stock numbers/feed requirements e.g cull, dry off a proportion of the herd, graze off.
- Get agronomic and fertilizer advice.
- Tap into farmer support services such as the Rural Support Trust.

Help at hand

Flood Recovery Fact Sheet beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/flood-recovery-fact-sheet

Feed planning for a tough winter beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/feed-planning-tough-winter

Feedsmart Allocation tool beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/video/feedsmart-app-feed-allocation-tools

Rural Support Trust ph 0800 787 254,
email rstruralrecovery@gmail.com

General information about farmer support channels www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/37847-where-to-go-for-farmer-support

Mayoral Relief Fund (for those not eligible for other forms of support) www.southlanddc.govt.nz/my-council-/funding-and-grants-/southland-mayoral-relief-fund/

Southland and Otago Winter Feed Management Toolkit www.fedfarm.org.nz/FFPublic/Policy2/National/2020/SouthlandandOtago_WinterFeedManagement_Toolkit.aspx

To do

- Secure fences and fix water systems.
- Document damage and actions for possible government assistance, insurance claims and your own records.