

During this pandemic, farmers are feeding our nation and generating export revenue. This is a responsibility our sector cannot take lightly. Please consider all of these points as you plan your response to COVID-19.

1. PROTECT YOUR FARM

Get the [Covid protocols on the farm.pdf](#)

- Keep a record of authorised visitors - record date and time of visit.
- Display the official [NZ COVID Tracer QR code poster](#) for providers and visitors to sign in.
- Ensure EVERYONE washes their hands thoroughly on arrival and before they leave.
- Where practical, clean equipment, vehicles and machinery with an anti-viral solution between users. Keep spray bottles of anti-viral solution in vehicles, in smoko rooms or shared spaces. Spray, leave for 10 seconds, then wipe.
- Stay at least two metres apart from anyone not in your family unit or bubble AT ALL TIMES.
- If anyone is at all unwell, they need to stay at home and self-isolate.

2. LOOK AFTER YOUR EMPLOYEES

- Prepare a [letter](#) so they can travel to and from work legally.
- When staff arrive on the farm ask them to wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Before starting the day's work, have a conversation with staff to ensure they maintained social distancing outside of work and discuss how they will safely manage tasks while maintaining social distancing and high standards of hygiene.
- Have a plan for safe eating. Use separate utensils and practice social distancing.
- Get them to sign a [MOU](#) to ensure they understand their responsibilities in keeping NZ's food production going.

3. LOOK AFTER YOUR FAMILY AND YOURSELF

- Take a break, get some exercise, clear your head, eat well and put personal routines in place such as regular meal and sleep times - [farmstrong.co.nz](#).
- If you or someone close to you needs extra support please contact **Rural Support Trust 0800787254**.

4. CONSIDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU GOT SICK

- Draw up a farm operating manual so someone could come in and keep stock fed and watered. Think about the idiosyncrasies of your farm (e.g. water and electricity systems).

- If you feel unwell call your GP or **Healthline 08003585453** and stay away from any staff or people on your farm.

5. REVIEW YOUR TO-DO LIST

- Prioritise - What needs to be done in the next four weeks and what can be postponed. Plan for possible [feed shortages](#), particularly if processing is slower or stock sales are delayed.
- Put together a feed budget. How is feed supply/demand looking for the next few months - a [guide to feed planning for sheep farmers](#), [feed budget spreadsheet](#).

6. CONTACT SUPPORT SERVICES

- A number of essential farm support businesses are still operating. Contact them to discuss your requirements and how these can be met safely for all parties. These might include vets, stock agents, agronomists, fertiliser spreaders, transport operators.
- Ensure all service providers are registered as essential service and have a plan in place to safely deliver their service.

7. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Talk to your accountant or bank manager about government support packages, tax exemptions and other support tools. Government support is available to those who meet a certain criteria - [coronavirus information for businesses](#).
- Put together a [financial budget](#). What are your cashflows, profit and loss over the next few months?

8. THINK OUTSIDE THE SQUARE

- Explore the use of on-line buying/selling platforms for livestock or feed.
- Learn how [technology](#) can help you get the information and decision-making tools that can help you run your farm. Enlist the help of tech-savvy family members (anyone over the age of 8) to explore the world of Apps, podcasts, webinars etc.
- When this is over there will be a number of unemployed, skilled people looking for work - is there an opportunity to employ an extra pair of hands to get jobs done?

9. LOOK AFTER YOUR COMMUNITY

- Regularly phone older or more vulnerable members of your community.
- Keep in touch with neighbours, friends, sports or social groups - have virtual get-togethers- there are a number of easy-to-use technologies available to make this happen.
- Drop off essential supplies to those who might need it. Just leave food, firewood etc. at the door.

10. BE PROUD

This is your time to shine. It is farmers and farming that will see NZ through this crisis. Follow the rules, be safe and be proud of what you are doing to keep our nation fed and export dollars coming.

Feed budget link courtesy of Scandrett Rural Ltd