

FLOOD RECOVERY INFORMATION



Resources to help manage your dairy in post-floods and wet conditions

Extreme wet conditions can cause hardship for dairy farmers – it's easy to become overwhelmed after a flood event, so it may help to take a bit of time to jot down all the jobs that need to be done and order these into a priority list.

To help you deliver on your priority list, Dairy NSW, Dairy Australia, the NSW DPI, the LLS, NSW Farmers and Dairy Connect have produced a range of information sheets on managing your business risks, the health and welfare of your animals, yourselves and staff during recovery and more.

In addition, Dairy NSW is working with local farmers and agencies to identify what we can deliver to provide you with timely regional support and services. We hope you find this information pack useful.

Website: www.dairynsw.com.au

Email: info@dairynsw.com.au

Table of Contents

<u>1.0 PASTURE RENOVATION</u>		Pages No
1.1	What pastures might survive a flood?	4
1.2	What if I do nothing?	4
1.3	After a spring flood – Replanting what, how and when	4
1.4	Other pasture/silage considerations	4
For more information, email Josh Hack or call 0488 277 133		
<u>2.0 FARM BUSINESS SUPPORT</u>		
2.1	Feed budget	6
2.2	Cash flow budget	6
2.3	Fact sheets	6
2.4	Dairy NSW: Taking Stock Farmer to Advisor on farm consultancy - COMPLIMENTARY	6
2.5	Dairy NSW: DairyBase coaching on-farm support - COMPLIMENTARY	7
For more information, email Jessica Micallef or call 0428 472 983		
<u>3.0 NSW STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</u>		
3.1	Rural financial counselling services	8
3.2	Channels of Financial assistance	8
3.3	Summary of State and Federal Financial Assistance	9
3.4	LLS and DPI emergency support	9
3.5	Dairy NSW: Follow up for initial flood declarations	10
3.6	Insurance	10
For more information, email info@dairynsw.com.au		
<u>4.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGIES</u>		
4.1	Power outages and generators	11
4.2	Cattle tracking	11
4.3	Fences and water supplies	11
4.4	Communications	11
4.5	Laneways	11
For more information, email info@dairynsw.com.au		

<u>5.0 HERD HEALTH AND WELFARE</u>		
5.1	Alert for Three-day sickness	12
5.2	Other herd health risks	13
5.3	Call for interest in a workshop for lameness	13
5.4	Dairy NSW: Pre-milking Teat Preparation workshop - COMPLIMENTARY	13
For more information, email Greg Duncan or call 0477 044 047		
<u>6.0 YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING</u>		
6.1	Rural Resilience and Wellbeing support	15
6.2	General Contacts	15
6.3	Preparing for contingencies, your animals, yourself and staff	15
6.4	Dairy NSW: Recovery Dinner and Lawn Bowls - COMPLIMENTARY	16
For more information, email Sheena Carter or call 0427 434 412		
<u>7.0 ADVOCACY</u>		
7.1	Farmer Associations in NSW	17
7.2	Legal assistance	17
For more information, contact the agencies directly.		
<u>8.0 THE DAIRY NSW TEAM</u>		17

1.0 Pasture Renovation

1.1 What pastures might survive a flood?

Pasture species differ in their ability to survive inundation and water-logging. Sensitivity to waterlogging also varies with temperature, so a flood in summer kills pasture much quicker than a winter flood.

It appears that pastures which are inundated for a short time are virtually unharmed by flooding in winter provided they are not covered by mud, sand or debris. As an example, many pastures survived 7 to 10 days of waterlogging after the June 2007 floods in the Hunter Valley, but these same pasture types were killed by 2 to 3 days inundation and waterlogging on the North Coast in January 2008.

Pasture species such as lucerne, barley and oats are very sensitive to waterlogging, while couch grass, fescue, setaria, maku lotus, strawberry clover and broadleaf paspalum are much more tolerant and are likely to survive. Kikuyu and ryegrass are in between these two extremes.

1.2 What if I do nothing?

If you do nothing to flooded pastures you will likely find tolerant species such as couch grass will come back first (but for couch not until it warms up). Annual grasses and broadleaf weeds will establish from self-sown seed.

1.3 After a spring flood – Replanting what, how and when

If summer growing pastures such as kikuyu, paspalum or setaria have survived the flood, allowing them to regrow will provide the quickest grazing.

After the area has drained and is no longer waterlogged **topdressing with a nitrogen fertiliser** will promote faster regrowth. Flooding usually causes significant loss of nitrogen from the soil due to a combination of runoff, leaching and denitrification. Most grass dominant pastures will be nitrogen deficient after a flood.

If the flood has killed existing pastures or crops then **shirohie millet** is the first of the spring/summer crops to be sown. Shirohie can be sown when 9 am soil temperatures rise to 14°C, usually in September. Shirohie seed is usually cheap and could be broadcast if the weather is mild. Broadcasting seed is more risky in warmer conditions as the soil or flood mud will dry and crust quicker with increasing temperatures.

Another option is **forage sorghum**, which can produce reasonable quality feed, however it can be difficult to manage the grazing/ harvest time to maintain quality. Having large areas can also be a challenge if all planted at the same time. When morning soil temperatures exceed 16°C forage sorghums may be sown. Being a larger seed they should be drilled 1 to 3 cm into the soil.

A reasonable option after a spring flood is a high yielding quality crop for storage and making the most of the sub soil moisture and irrigation to produce crops, such as maize.

Cowpeas and other summer forage legumes including lablab bean or soybean can be sown when morning soil temperatures are 20°C. They also have large seeds and are generally sensitive to waterlogging. Cowpea is the most sensitive and soybean more tolerant of waterlogging.

1.4 Other pastures/silage considerations

Farms may experience access and transport problems and require emergency fodder drops. It is recommended that farms have enough supplementary feed on hand to be self-sufficient for seven days or more.

- **Seed availability** is always a challenge so keep your reseller up-to-date on your needs.

- Post flooding **weeds** can be transferred on your farm allowing weeds to germinate so take this opportunity to control weeds prior to planting. Your local knowledge will be important in knowing what types of weeds you will have so use this knowledge when choosing what to plant.
- Often pasture can be recovering well and you may want to **cut silage**. Silage is NOT an option if pasture has silt/flood mud even if can get on the paddock ... **Dirt will contaminate silage and produce poor fermentation**.
- A taller winter crop that is not inundated but is waterlogged is unlikely to make grain; **chopped silage** may be an option if you can get on the paddock.
- For silage it is initially best to **leave the pasture to recover** from the flooding. This allows the pasture to dry out and stand. If possible, delay cutting to enable air movement.
- Utilise your **local knowledge** and use trusted people around you for **help and guidance**.
- Consult your **local Agronomist** on what is available and options to fit your system.
- If pasture is laying on ground, it will be slow to dry and there is a greater chance of **mould/mycotoxin** developing.
- Dealing with old growth/thatch and getting quality pasture growing again is a goal. If you can get cows to walk through, graze a bit and knock some dirt off, this will reduce bulk.
- When dealing with the pasture left behind, **harvest with a chopper and discard**. This is best done once you can get on to the paddock but it can be expensive. Don't mulch and aim to mow to 5 to 10 cm – depending on how heavy the crop/pasture is.
- Getting plants to receive **light into the lower tillers is crucial** if the plants are to respond.
- **Respond and make a decision**. Assess the paddocks individually and make three groups: (1) paddocks are ok, (2) need to re-assess paddocks next week; and (3) plan paddocks for re-planting. This will also help your feed budget planning and give you a good understanding of rotations and upcoming work load.

Additional resources

- [Agriculture Victoria on Renovation of Damaged Pastures and Soils](#)
- [Dairy Australia's Managing Fodder Shortages](#)
- [Perennial ryegrass management - pasture renovation](#) (pdf)

Sources of this information and additional support

NSW – DPI **Prime Fact 782 Pastures Options after a Coastal Flood** (2009), Neil Griffiths, District Agronomist, Tocal, Paterson. [Read the full article](#)

For more information email [Josh Hack](mailto:jhack@dairyaustralia.com.au), (jhack@dairyaustralia.com.au)
Dairy NSW Extension Coordinator and Agronomist or call **0488 277 133**

2.0 Farm Business Support

2.1 Feed budget

Doing a feed budget is essential in order to make the best decisions around managing your feed requirements throughout the season. The following feed budgeting tool helps farmers look at feed supply and feed demand over a 3, 6, 9 or 12 month period to assist with making good tactical decisions around feeding cows.

- [Dairy Australia's Planning your cash flow and feed budget](#)
- [Dairy Australia's Case Experience with the feed budgeting tool](#) (YouTube video 1:38 min)

2.2 Cash flow budget

Use an easy-to-navigate spreadsheet to ensure you have an accurate cash flow budget.

- [Dairy Australia's Dairy cash management planner](#) (Excel spreadsheet)

2.3 Fact sheets

In floods, some farms will have limited cash on hand to buy emergency feed supplies and limited funds to invest in preparedness infrastructure. This can have a cumulative impact if there is a series of events without full recovery before the next one.

So it is recommended farmers work through a process to help you understand your current position and plan ahead for the 2016/17 season. Click on the relevant folder below to download **fact sheets** to help you understand your situation and plan ahead.

- [Seasonal advice and checklists](#)
- [Knowing your situation](#)
- [Planning your cash flow and feed budget](#)
- [Maximising value from home grown and purchased feed](#)
- [Dairy Farm Business Analysis Fact Sheet series](#)

2.4 Dairy NSW: Taking Stock Farmer to Advisor on farm consultancy - COMPLIMENTARY

Dairy NSW is offering farms an on-farm consultation with an adviser to help you assess your cash and profit position and also look at a range of key issues including:

- Understanding and managing farm business budgets
- Identifying cost saving options
- Calculating pasture consumption
- Managing debt and the business' balance sheet
- Understanding additional support services that can be accessed including counselling and health services
- Creating an action plan.

For more information, please email info@dairynsw.com.au

2.5 Dairy NSW: DairyBase Coaching on farm support - COMPLIMENTARY

Dairy NSW is offering farms an on-farm session with a DairyBase Coach.

DairyBase is an online business management tool designed for dairy farmers to measure and compare their farm performance over time. DairyBase is available to all dairy farmers and will enable you to:

- create annual reports and forecasts
- identify opportunities to increase profit and reduce risk
- make more informed business decisions.

Using and understanding DairyBase can be a powerful tool and Dairy NSW is offering one-on-one coaching to farmers to input their farm business information. The DairyBase coaches have been trained to coach you to enter your farm physical and financial information into DairyBase and from there generate reports that compare an individual farm over previous years.

The sessions are complimentary to dairy farmers however they do require you to organise certain information before your DairyBase coaching session. If you are interested in the DairyBase coaching program or would like further information please email info@dairynsw.com.au

Sources of this information and additional support

- Dairy Australia's Tactics for Tight Times www.tfft.dairyaustralia.com.au
- Dairy Australia's DairyBase www.dairybase.com.au

Additional information can be sourced by emailing the Dairy NSW officer who is coordinating farm business management resources, [Jess Micallef \(jessica@dairynsw.com.au\)](mailto:jessica@dairynsw.com.au) or call her phone no is **0428 472 983**.

3.0 NSW State Government's Financial Assistance

3.1 Rural Financial Counselling Services

The Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW (RSCS) provides free and impartial financial counselling to eligible primary producers who are suffering financial hardship. This includes support to manage the challenges of change and adjustment.

Central region contacts: Ph: 1800 940 404

- **Dubbo** - John Jones - 0427 439 481, Andrew Turnbull - 0419 402 295
- **Forbes** - Robert Muffet - 0458 523 837, Patrick Crowe - 0488 304 590

Visit [NSW Rural Assistance Authority](#)

3.2 Channels of financial assistance

There are a range of measures in place to support farmers affected by the current floods.

LLS Livestock, welfare, pastures and land management - Primary producers who require assistance or advice on livestock welfare, pastures or land management, or wish to report damage should contact their **Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299**.

DPI Emergency management - Visit [Emergency management](#) for recovery information on a range of topics including feeding and health related issues in livestock, managing pastures and aquaculture issues.

Emergency NSW Natural Disaster financial assistance - As a result of damage sustained during a natural disaster, local government areas can be declared natural disaster zones, opening access to financial assistance. [Emergency NSW](#) has information on a range of assistance measures, including Personal Hardship and Distress assistance, low interest loans and transport subsidies.

Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) Natural Disaster Relief Scheme – The RAA assists primary affected by flood/fire/storm damage or other declared natural disasters. For the most recent information or to download forms contact the **RAA on 1800 678 593**.

Assistance available includes:

- **Disaster relief loans** of up to \$130,000 are available, subject to certain eligibility criteria, at a concessional interest rate for those in urgent need. These loans may be used for essential working capital, replacement and repair of damage caused to the property and associated improvements not covered by insurance. The repayment term is preceded by a two year interest and repayment free period. Claims must be lodged within six months of the declared date of the disaster.
- **Transport subsidies** of up to 50% of the cost of transporting fodder and/or water to an affected property and stock to/from agistment are available. These rebates apply to primary producers in areas affected by the storm/floods, subject to eligibility criteria. Maximum subsidy available is \$15,000 per annum. Claims must be submitted no more than six months after first movement. Submit all claim forms to the Rural Assistance Authority with invoices, receipts and other documentation.
- **Dairy Recovery Concessional Loans** aim to support eligible Dairy Farm Businesses impacted by the 2015-16 reduction in milk prices. The scheme recognises that the May 2016 decision of Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Ltd (Murray Goulburn) and Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd (Fonterra) to reduce the farm gate price of milk, is having a severe impact on some dairy farm businesses, resulting in widespread uncertainty and likely future hardship across the dairy industry.
- **Personal Hardship and Distress Assistance** - The Office of Emergency Management can provide disaster relief grants to eligible individuals and families whose homes and essential household items have been

destroyed or damaged by a natural disaster. People with limited financial resources and no insurance may be eligible for assistance for essential household items and structural repairs to the home. For information about the disaster relief grants and the eligibility criteria call the **Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444**.

- **Farm Household Support** - The Australian Government Department of Human Services provides help for farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship. To be eligible:
 - you must be a farmer or the partner of a farmer. If you are the farmer you must contribute a significant part of your labour and capital to the farm enterprise based on specific criteria
 - meet an income and assets test
 - be willing to undertake a [Farm Financial Assessment](#)
 - be willing to enter into a Financial Improvement Agreement to help you improve your financial circumstances.

Contact: Farmer Assistance Line **phone 132 316** or your local Rural Financial Counsellor.

- **Family and Community Services** – They offer the following services:
 - Housing NSW 1800 152 152 for private rental bond assistance, temporary accommodation and housing assistance.
 - Rentstart Bond assistance 1300 468 746
 - Community Services 132 111
 - Ageing Disability and Homecare 1300 134 450
- **Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner** – [Small Biz Connect](#) is a quality, personalised and highly subsidised business advisory program for small businesses in NSW, including agribusinesses. **Call 1300 134 359 to make an appointment with your local business advisor.**
- **Motor Vehicle Stamp Duty Relief** - Motorists whose cars have been written off as a result of a natural disaster may be eligible for a stamp duty refund on their replacement vehicle. Refunds are made where the written off vehicle was comprehensively insured and the insurance does not cover duty for a replacement vehicle. Contact: [Office of State Revenue](#) **1300 139 814**

3.3 Summary of State and Federal Financial Assistance

The NSW Farmers produced [Financial Assistance Fact Sheets](#) (pdf) to give farmers a concise summary of state and federal financial assistance for producers in drought (updated on 4 May).

For those affected by natural disasters eg, flooding in NSW, read this document for information: [NSW Disaster Assistance for Primary Producers](#) (pdf). This provides an explanation of what is a natural disaster, current natural disaster declarations.

3.4 LLS and DPI emergency support

Local Land Services and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) provide support for affected landholders during emergencies through Local Control Centres.

DPI are the lead agency, with staff from both agencies providing on ground support in the form of:

- coordinating aerial surveillance of flood-affected areas and mustering if required
- alerting landholders of stock that are stranded or otherwise at risk
- providing on-ground support where needed
- providing emergency accommodation for displaced companion animals and livestock.

Landholders should call **1300 795 299** or email emergency.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au to report all agricultural losses including fencing, crops and stranded, injured or deceased livestock.

Early reporting is essential to gain an understanding of flood damage extent.

Landholders who do not require support or assistance with stock and infrastructure are still encouraged to report damage and stock losses. This information provides a more accurate picture of damage and losses across the region which assists with the allocation of adequate resources by the partnering agencies.

3.5 Dairy NSW: Follow up support for initial flood declarations

Dairy NSW/Dairy Australia will be calling you to follow up on the initial flood declarations you've made. We appreciate that initial damage reports may not have known the extent of damages to fencing, pastures and so forth. You will receive a phone call to capture this information to help the government assess the total impact of flood inundation.

3.6 Insurance

If you have a query relating to insurance you can call the **Insurance Council on 1300 444 557**. This service is available to all.

For the future, remember to take "before" photos so that damages which have occurred to buildings/sheds, bridges, underpasses or power lines can be assessed.

Once matters have settled, it is wise to double check your insurance policies to make sure you have the right coverage for your farm business.

4.0 Infrastructure and technologies

4.1 Power outages and Generators

Blackouts can cause your milking system to stop so work out what the highest priority for power is and consider the use of a generator to aid milking, vat refrigeration or effluent pumps. Also remember to include water pumping to troughs and/or household use.

Don't forget to check back up batteries and dust off the generator once in a while to help identify its limitations, eg if required to milk and cool milk for a number of days at a time.

Resources

- [Dairy Australia's Preparing for Power outages – Five step plan](#) (pdf)
- [Dairy Australia's Milking through power outages](#) (pdf)

4.2 Cattle tracking

The **National Livestock Identification System** is used as Australia's system for identifying and tracking beef and dairy cattle, from their property of birth to slaughter. In an emergency event this system is used to assist in the identification of relocated or stray animals originating from commercial livestock operations.

4.3 Fences and water supplies

In an emergency, you'll want to make sure all livestock are safe and securely contained. Afterwards, you'll need to check and repair boundary fences and especially any electric fences to ensure they are working properly.

4.4 Communications

In floods, access to timely information is critical. The Internet may not work in a blackout. Landline phones may not work so mobile phones need to be working and charged to get warning alerts. Some farms may have an operational CB/UHF radio. You may want to use your vehicle radio or have a battery operated radio to listen to weather updates and emergency information from the local ABC.

4.5 Laneways

With the flood inundation, it will be necessary to review laneway construction, renovation and/or repair work.

Resources

- [Dairy Australia's Reducing lameness: Building blocks for good laneways](#) (pdf)
- [DPI's Soil management and laneways](#) (pdf)

5.0 Herd Health and Welfare

5.1 Alert for Three-Day Sickness

Bovine Ephemeral Fever can be an issue post flood. This article from the Parkes' Champion Post is quoted verbatim to provide you warning and insight into symptoms given the increase in the biting insect populations – the good ole mozzie!

“Local cattle graziers [dairymen] are being **warned of Three Day Sickness**, or Bovine Ephemeral Fever (BEF) – a viral disease of cattle in northern Australia which may appear in Central West NSW following warm wet weather and increased biting insect populations.

Central West Local Lands Services Regional Veterinarian Jillian Kelly is urging graziers to take particular note of symptoms and to contact their district veterinarian should they suspect infection.

“Three Day Sickness may become an issue in the next few months,” Dr Kelly said.

“It is particularly topical in the northern and western parts of the region due to the large population of mosquitos which follow the persistent wet weather.

“Typically, affected animals are only sick for a few days, hence the common name - Three Day Sickness.”

Treatment for affected animals is usually unwarranted, however high value animals including bulls can be treated with anti-inflammatory drugs. Animals lying down should be provided with adequate water, food and shelter.

“Vaccination is available and highly recommended, but it needs to be done now in order to get the two doses administered before the BEF occurs,” Dr Kelly said.

“The cost of vaccinating is high but will be money well spent especially for bulls, heavy animals or high value animals. The BEF vaccine is only available through a veterinary practitioner.”

Infected animals will experience a sudden onset of fever, may shiver and show signs of lameness. They will be stiff and reluctant to move, drool saliva, develop a nasal discharge and may have watery eyes.

Joints may appear swollen and some animals will lie down and refuse to move. The fertility of bulls may be affected due to the high fever and abortions may occur in pregnant females.

“In the majority of cases the disease will run a relatively short course, with most animals standing and eating again after the third day,” Dr Kelly said.

“However, the disease can vary in severity and a small number of animals may stay down for a few weeks. Muscle damage or damage to the spinal cord can occur due to constant struggling, or injuries can occur if the animal falls suddenly or awkwardly.”

The disease can have severe economic and production consequences for producers through loss of animal condition, reduced fertility in bulls, reduced milk production, marketing delays and treatment costs. Death can occur in severely affected animals.

If you are a cattle producer and notice stock with symptoms of BEF, contact your District Veterinarian for advice. This is also important to let Local Land Services know the disease has arrived in the region.

Information Source

Source: <http://www.parkeschampionpost.com.au/story/4213408/graziers-warning> (23 October 2016)

5.2 Other Herd health risks

Confined stock are more prone to disease and rapid diet changes may lead to metabolic problems.

Clostridial (**mainly blackleg**) and leptospiral (**lepto**) infections represent a risk after flooding.

Botulism is a progressive paralysis from the ingestion of a toxin found in rotting animal material or on the bones of dead animals.

The moist conditions after floods favour the survival of worm eggs and larvae on pasture. Consequently, an increase in **worm infestations** may occur in the immediate post-flood period while animals are still under stress, and where they may be congregated for feeding or treatments.

Low flying helicopters conducting surveillances in the area may spook stock – adding to their stress.

Resources

- [Dairy Australia's animal facts – Botulism](#)
- [Dairy Australia's animal facts - Roundworms](#)

5.3 Call for interest in a workshop for lameness

Lameness and hoof injury is another risk during wet conditions. Dairy NSW understands some farms have lameness among their herd. If there is sufficient interest, we will organise a specialist to deliver a Dairy Australia [Healthy Hooves](#) workshop.

Topics covered in the Healthy Hooves Program:

- Lameness scoring
- How to build and maintain tracks
- Basic stock handling skills and cow behaviour
- How to examine a lame cow
- Treatment of common forms of lameness

Resources

- [Dairy Australia's managing in wet conditions - Lameness](#) (pdf)
- [Dairy Australia's Body Condition Scoring](#) (phone app)

To indicate your interest in attending a Healthy Hooves workshop, email [Greg Duncan](mailto:gduncan@dairyaustralia.com.au) (gduncan@dairyaustralia.com.au) or call him on **0477 044 047**.

5.4 Dairy NSW Pre-milking Teat Preparation workshop - COMPLIMENTARY

Managing Mastitis in wet or muddy periods is done in four key steps:

- 1 Wash and dry all teats before cups go on. On wet or muddy days, every teat must be washed and dried with one paper towel per cow.
- 2 Strip cows every day to detect, treat and isolate clinical cases.
- 3 Cover 100% of teat skin on every teat with teat disinfectant.
- 4 Keep teats clean for an hour after the cows leave the shed. Set up feeding and other routines so cows don't lie down soon after milking.

If elevated BMCCs or clinical cases persist, assess whether you have an underlying problem with teat condition, machine function, or other opportunities for bacteria to spread.

You may need to seek professional advice and cultures may be needed to determine the bacteria involved.

At the end of lactation, dry cow treatment is your best chance to remove infections and reduce mastitis risk at calving. Talk to your vet about using blanket antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment and Teat sealant.

Resources and Additional Support

- [Dairy Australia's Controlling mastitis in wet conditions](#) (pdf)
- [Dairy Australia's Countdown mastitis toolkit](#) (phone app)

For support in the area of herd performance, animal health and welfare, email Dairy NSW Extension Coordinator [Greg Duncan](#) or call **0477 044 047**.

Workshop discussion

Greg Duncan will facilitate a 2-hour discussion on pre-milking teat prep, what the routine is, its potential benefits, triggers and when and what to set up as a routine and the use of disinfection.

To indicate your interest in attending a Pre Milking Teat Preparation workshop, email [Greg Duncan](#) (gduncan@dairyaustralia.com.au) or call him on **0477 044 047**.

6.0 Your Health and Wellbeing

6.1 Rural Resilience and Wellbeing Support

Stress and the need to work excessive hours is common during a flood disaster. Ageing farmers who can't work as hard as they would like suffer physical fatigue and family roles and responsibilities may become confused in a disaster.

Rural Resilience Officers and Rural Support Workers also provide information on support available for farming families recovering from natural disasters and can connect them to relevant service providers. Please contact [NSW Rural Resilience Program](#) staff for advice on the most relevant support services for your needs.

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) – RAMHP provides a range of information services to individuals, communities and service providers to link rural and remote people to the help they need. This includes information on [where to access services, common mental illnesses](#) and [how to keep mentally healthy](#), as well as the Glove Box Guide to Mental Health. For a copy of the 2015 Glove Box Guide, contact 02 6363 8444.

Central West contacts

- Camilla Kenny (Dubbo) - camilla.kenny@health.nsw.gov.au (02) 6881 4034
- Di Gill (Canowindra) - dianne.gill@health.nsw.gov.au (02) 6340 3300

General contacts:

- Kids Helpline – 1800 551 800 (telephone counselling service 24 hours, seven days a week)
- Community Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511
- Mensline Australia – 1300 78 99 78, 24 hours a day, 7 day telephone counselling for men
- Beyondblue – 1300 224 636
- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Australian Red Cross – 1800 660 066 provides personal support during a disaster and an outreach service to affected households.
- Black Dog Institute – 9382 4530

6.2 General contacts

The Salvation Army - Provides advice, personal support and referral to social services. Contact: 13 72 58.

St Vincent de Paul Rural Task Force - Provides personal support, farm visits, advocacy, clothing and some financial assistance. Contact: (02) 9560 2666.

Births, Deaths and Marriages - Free replacement of birth certificates, marriage certificates and change of name certificates through the [Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages](#). Contact: Michelle Gould - (02) 9035 6411

6.3 Preparing for contingencies, your animals, yourself and staff

Given recent/current weather conditions, even though most dairy farmers will often put the safety of their livestock ahead of their personal safety, it is important to make sure all animal owners/carers//staff are aware of their responsibilities.

One often overlooked lesson from recent flood events has been the importance of checking contingency arrangements periodically. For example, a flood mound or sacrifice paddock last used in 1973 or 1993 may not meet the needs of the (bigger) herd if an incident occurs today. Infrastructure developments upstream may materially change water flows relative to previous experiences – so risk environment scanning needs to extend beyond the farm-gate.

Once things settle, consider how to prepare for future emergencies.

Personal safety plans and household or property plans should include contingencies for animals regardless of whether they will either remain on the property or be relocated during an emergency. It is acknowledged that in the event of an emergency, standards of animal care may be compromised.

Are family and staff safe? - Do not put yourself or others in harm's way (flood water, or electric)

Who needs to be contacted? - Staff, milk company field officer, local Council. How can they be contacted? Who will do it and when?

Can staff work? - Can they access the property and/or do they need to focus on their family? Who else can work/help?

Access to supplies? - Do you have access to clean water, food and a quiet haven for a break and sleep?

Those in charge of animals – They may have to relocate quickly, potentially leaving animals behind, and may be restricted in their ability to care for animals. Such planning needs to include identifying whether animals will be relocated or left on a property, preparing an area for any animals left behind to ensure they are given the best chance of survival, ensuring that animals can be identified and having transport and animals ready so that people can relocate with them in a timely and safe manner.

Resources and Additional Support

The Dairy Australia [People in Dairy](#) website contains a wealth of information on managing farm staff. It offers information and templates relating to farm safety, the award and pay rates, working together to keep a positive workplace culture and much more. To ask questions about managing people, email Dairy NSW Extension Coordinator, [Sheena Carter](#) or call her on 0427 434 412.

- [Dairy Australia's Dairy Farm Emergency Preparedness Checklist](#) (pdf)
- [Dairy Australia's Prepare for Flood](#) (pdf)

6.4 Dairy NSW: Recovery Dinner and Lawn Bowls – COMPLIMENTARY

Dairy NSW will host a night out of dinner and lawn bowls on 3 November in Forbes. To enquire and RSVP, please contact the office by email [Roxanne Cooley](mailto:roxanne@dairynsw.com.au) (roxanne@dairynsw.com.au) or phone her on **0412 825 466**.

7.0 Advocacy

7.1 Farm Associations in NSW

To help represent the dairy industry in lobbying for support during emergencies, dairy farmers are asked to input your concerns directly into a NSW farmer association of your choice to help strengthen your advocacy position and accurately represent your concerns:

- [The NSW Farmers – Dairy Committee](#) is chaired by a local Dubbo Farmer, Erika Chesworth.
- [Dairy Connect Dairy Committee](#) is chaired by Graham Forbes, a Gloucester farmer, and in the Central West region, farmers are represented by Phil Morrow a Canowindra farmer.

7.2 Legal assistance

[Legal Aid NSW](#) helps people with their legal problems. Legal Aid NSW lawyers can provide free legal advice and minor assistance to people affected by disasters on a range of issues including insurance, tenancy, credit and debt problems and what free legal assistance may be available in your area. **Contact: LawAccess NSW - 1300 888 529**

8.0 THE DAIRY NSW TEAM

Dairy NSW
Your Levy at Work

Dairy Australia

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