

Drought Support – Farm and Technical

There are a number of services and avenues for assistance designed to support farm families, farm businesses and rural communities to prepare for, manage through and recover from drought.

This fact sheet covers assistance and services related to farming or technical advice. Other fact sheets related to Financial Support and Health and Wellbeing are available at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought.

Animal Health and Welfare Support

PIRSA Animal and Agricultural Services can provide advice and assistance with livestock and other animals affected by the current dry conditions.

A 24-hour Agriculture, Animal Health and Welfare Hotline – 1800 255 556 – is available for anyone who has questions relating to the dry conditions and their individual circumstances and support available or concerns relating to animal health or welfare.

Information about other support services, including the Family and Business (FaB) Support Program is also available by calling the Hotline or the contacts provided below. Biosecurity SA's Animal Health Officers are available to provide advice and support related to animal health and welfare concerns during dry conditions, as well as livestock transport requirements and biosecurity requirements such as requesting commodity declarations when buying in feed sources. You can also find contacts for your local Animal Health Officer in your region by going to: www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/contact_us

Importing or receiving imported hay or grain

It's important that producers are aware that while there are no established cereal grain pests regulated for interstate transport into South Australia, there are several which could act as hitchhikers particularly on other fodder types (e.g. hay). Weed seeds are also potential contaminants of grain and hay, and many of these are prohibited from entry into South Australia.

It's recommended that producers who are importing or receiving imported hay or grain:

- Check with Biosecurity SA prior to importing material to ensure that they aren't likely to be affected by pests and/or download the Weed Control App for a pictorial list of what's declared in SA at:
www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa/weed_control_app
- Purchasers of interstate grain should also seek assurance that it meets the industry's Grain Trade Australia standards, which covers acceptable level of weed and pathogen burden.
- Establish an on-farm strategy for reducing risk. This should include isolating the areas in which feed is stored / put out for livestock and monitor these for the occurrence of pests and weeds.

Managing pests, weed and chemical residue risks

The following fact sheets have been prepared to help primary producers manage risks associated with imported feed and fodder and/or alternative feed sources, as well as raise awareness regarding issues such as maximum residue limits (MRLs):

- Drought feeding and residue fact sheet:
http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/338836/Drought_feeding_and_residue_fact_sheet_-_February_2019.pdf
- Weed risks in drought conditions fact sheet:
http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/338837/Weed_risks_in_drought_conditions_fact_sheet_-_February_2019.pdf
- Avoiding snail contamination:
http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/research/services/reports_and_newsletters/pestfacts_newsletter/current_issue/pestfacts_issue_11_2018/snails_and_harvest_avoiding_snail_or_chemical_contamination

Farming Extension or Technical Advice

Making well informed decisions in preparing for droughts and risks are a major factor in having a profitable farm. There are a number of farm management decision tools available on the PIRSA website:

- Farm support:
www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/industry_support/farm_support
- Business and risk management for farmers:
www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/industry_support/business_and_risk_management_for_farmers

Australian Wool Innovation

W: www.wool.com

AWI has a range of tools and resources which can assist sheep producers to manage their business.

Meat & Livestock Australia

W: www.mla.com.au

MLA has produced a range of guides and information collated by MLA to assist livestock producers as they head into, manage through and plan to recover from drought.

Natural resources and the environment

W: www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals

W: www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/land-and-farming/dry-times

W: www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Natural Resource Management boards and Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) run a range of local programs that can provide technical advice and support on a range of farming and land management issues.

Sheep Connect SA

W: www.sheepconnectsa.com.au

Sheep Connect SA has a range of Case Studies, Fact Sheets and Webinars to help sheep producers manage through and plan to recover from drought.

PestFacts Newsletter

W: www.pir.sa.gov.au/pestfacts

PestFacts newsletter offers solutions, warnings and reminders for a range of invertebrate pests of all broadacre crops including cereal, oilseeds, pulses and fodder crops.