

Industry response to floods in New South Wales and Southern Queensland



Dairy farms across the New South Wales North Coast, Mid North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Hunter and Central Tablelands have been affected by floods over the last few weeks. With the waters receding, the clean-up has begun highlighting a wide range of impacts.

Around 150-200 farmers across the state are affected, with around 20-25 farms working through severe impacts.

South-East Queensland and Far South Coast NSW continue to see small pockets of farms being affected but with less severity than the NSW Mid North Coast.

Lameness is the main animal health and welfare challenge, with mastitis as another focus area for many affected farmers. Local vets are supported by Dairy Australia via technical resources, webinars and on-the-ground support from Dr Mark Humphris.

Farmer welfare and mental health is another priority with local resources being leveraged to support farmers.

Government and Industry Assistance and Support for Flood Affected Businesses

State and Federal Government, and Dairy Australia have announced a number of grants and other financial assistance responses for affected producers in disaster declared regions.

These include:

- Up to \$75,000 in recovery and restoration funding for eligible farm businesses (this may include such things as fodder and additional feed, reparations to damaged infrastructure such as laneways, fences and water sources, restoration of pastures, replacing lost livestock and animal health costs and numerous other items and services related to losses from this event. Full eligibility details can be found on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-grants-floods
- Up to \$15,000 in transport subsidies for stock feed, water and livestock visit RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/natural-disaster-transport-subsidy
- Access other Government support measures here: www.recovery.serviceconnect.gov.au/flood
- Dairy Australia is providing support for professional advisory services including financial, agronomic, nutritional, veterinary and strategic management advice. To access this support south of Kempsey please contact Carly Potts (carly.potts@dairynsw.com.au or 0455 227 707). To access support between Kempsey and south-east Qld, please contact Alicia Richters (alicia@subtropicaldairy.com.au or 0427 916 650)
- Dairy Australia is also providing support across a range of needs for affected farmers, including helping farmers with their grant applications. A service provider working group to connect local service providers and coordinate the response efforts as well as additional on-ground support for treating and managing lame cows is currently meeting to coordinate the response. The latest technical resources for managing in wet conditions can be found [here](#).



Quick Flood Links and Contact Numbers

RAA Special Disaster Assistance (Floods) 1800 678 593
www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-grants-floods

RAA Disaster Assistance – Loans and Transport Subsidy
www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance

Services Australia – Disaster Relief Payment and Disaster Recovery Allowance – 180 22 66
www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/new-south-wales-floods-march-2021

Services Australia – Farm Household Allowance
www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance

Farmer Assistance phone line 13 23 16
for assistance with Farm Household Allowance

Rural Financial Counselling Service Northern Region NSW
1800 344 090 www.rfcsnr.org.au

Rural Financial Counselling Service Southern Region Qld
www.rfcssq.org.au

National Centre for Farmer Health
www.farmerhealth.org.au/support

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)
02-6363 8444 www.ramhp.com.au/

NSW DPI Primary Producers Guide
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/RRP/primary-producers

Qld DAF Natural Disaster information
www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/activated-areas