

Issue note

NSW Floods

March 24th 2021

OVERVIEW

This note provides an update on the status of floods affecting the dairy industry across New South Wales based on information gathered today, 24 March 2021.

All text in GREEN has been added or changed since the last Issue Note sent on March 22nd.

INDUSTRY IMPACT

In summary, floods continue to affect a significant number of dairy farms across NSW. Farmers across the Mid North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Hunter, Central Tablelands continue to experience floods, despite the rain easing as of this morning.

Across the NSW dairy regions around 150-200 farmers have been affected in some capacity with around 20-25 farms having their operations severely impacted. Damages continue to be assessed and significant farm, paddock and stock losses are expected. All farms are able to milk but milk picks-up are interrupted across the region due to road damages.

34 local government areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disaster areas. **See here** for the latest status per LGA.

NSW State Emergency Services (SES) continue to coordinate and lead the on-the-ground response, with people urged to call 132 500 in case of any people, home or property damage related inquiries. For animal and emergency feed related inquiries, the LLS/DPI Services hotline continues to be the main number via 1-800 814 647.

INDUSTRY RESPONSE

Dairy Australia has activated its Issues Management Framework by initiating an Issues Response Team which includes the regional managers from Dairy NSW and Subtropical Dairy and key staff from Dairy Australia.

Extension Officer Carly Potts is coordinating the **regional dairy response group** consisting of RDPs, State Government, LLS, processors SDFOs and (acting) DA Issues Manager.

Relevant extension resources

Extension materials and resources are available and are currently being shared via social media. Resources have been updated and added where required. These include a factsheet on missed milkings and the Dairy Australia feed budgeting tools.

These resources can be found on the Dairy Australia website via www.dairyaustralia.com.au/floods.

Communications

A range of communication resources for dairy farmers have been shared through a number of channels led and directed by the regional teams including social media and regional newsletters.

Recovery support and funding

Dairy Australia will coordinate and fund recovery support to affected farmers, in line with the bushfire recovery service that was rolled-out following the 2020 bushfire season. More details on what this entails and how to access it will be communicated as of next week.

Further information

NSW DPI/LLS Ag and Animal Services Hotline - 1800 814 647

As of today the NSW DPI and LLS have initiated a free 1-800 hotline that will operate as a first point of contact for any ag and animal related inquiry by farmers affected by the floods. Dairy farmers will be encouraged to call this number particularly for issues/services related to animal welfare.

Damage Assessment

NSW DPI asks any primary producer affected by the floods to fill out the natural disaster damage survey. DPI uses these surveys to determine the scale and severity of the impact and what assistance and resources are required where. Surveys can be submitted via phone or computer and can be accessed via [this link](#). Ag industry representatives can fill this in on behalf of farmers with their consent.

Emergency feed

Emergency Feed allocations are being organized and coordinated on a regional level. Please contact the NSW DPI/LLS Ag and Animal Services Hotline for more information – 1800 814 647. Farmers must register to access.

Disaster Relief Payments available

Disaster Relief Payments are available for residents across 34 council areas in NSW. Anyone who has suffered damage to their principal place of residence or the flood has significantly damaged a major asset or assets you own at your property across the following councils may be eligible to receive a Disaster Relief Payment of \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child: *Armidale, Bellingen, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury Bankstown, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Cumberland, Dungog Shire, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Inner West, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Lake Macquarie, Liverpool, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Newcastle, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Port Stephens, Sutherland, Tenterfield, The Hills and Wollondilly.*

Claims for this payment can be lodged with Services Australia for a period up to 6 months. More details can be found [here](#).

Natural Disaster Assistance (Transport Subsidy and Disaster Relief Loans)

Natural disaster assistance is available to help communities and individuals directly affected by flood, fire, storm damage or any other declared natural disaster. To support relief and recovery following a declared natural disaster a range of measures are made available by the NSW Government.

A natural disaster assistance **Transport Subsidy** is available to eligible farmers who are affected by a declared natural disaster event. This subsidy pays for the cost of transporting:

- fodder and/or water to an affected property
- stock to sale or slaughter
- stock to/from agistment.

For more information and to claim the subsidy, [click here](#).

Disaster Relief Loans for primary producers directly affected by the floods may be eligible for low interest loans of up to \$130,000. For more information and how to apply, [click here](#).

Disaster Recovery Allowance

Some farmers may qualify for Disaster Recovery Allowance. Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) is a short term payment to help you if a declared disaster directly affects your income. You can get it for a maximum of 13 weeks. It pays from the date you lose income as a direct result of the New South Wales floods in March 2021. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Weather forecast

The rain has eased across all areas with no rainfall expected across most of the state for tomorrow and Thursday. The immediate threat of severe weather has passed, but the situation will continue to be monitored and future warnings could be issued. Major flooding continues to occur in the North West, North Coast and Mid Coast regions (based on information available as of 5.30pm March 24th).

The next issue note is currently planned for Monday March 29th

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