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Your Farm Emergency Plan

This plan will help you prepare for the worst and ultimately it will help with:

- Survivability: Planning can substantially improve the likelihood that you, and your business, will be resilient after a disaster, so it should be high on your priority list.
- Opportunity Spotting: An emergency response plan can help you identify
 opportunities for you and your business and become more resilient whether it's
 having access to backup sites or workspaces, or essential items like generators,
 preparedness pays off.
- Peace of Mind: It can boost confidence among your family and staff members, especially if they're involved in the planning process.
- Insurance Benefits: It could help you negotiate lower business insurance premiums.

Planning for adverse weather events not only saves lives but can also be the game-changer for you, your family, and your business.

It's important to take proactive action before disaster strikes.

By investing time in planning and preparation, you can be better equipped to handle any situation. Whether it's a cyclone, earthquake, storm, tsunami, or even a cyber threat, being ready for whatever comes your way is key.

Contact Number:

Who is this plan for?

Name:

Name:	Contact Number:
Name:	Contact Number:
Name:	Contact Number:

What are your GPS coordinates?

Your Home

Step 1: Do you have anyone at home with special requirements:

Will anyone in your farm need assistance to evacuate, or while stuck at home during an emergency?	
Does anyone rely on mobility or medical devices or other special equipment?	
Does anyone rely on prescription medicine?	
Do you have supplies to last three days or more or alternatives if power is not available?	
Do you have babies or infants on the farm? Do you have nappies, formula, etc. to last three days or more if shops and roads are closed?	
Do you have pets? Your animals are your responsibility, so make sure you include them in your emergency planning. Do you have food and water to last three days or more? Do you have cages or carriers to transport them and keep them safe? Do you have someone to collect and look after your animals if you can't get home?	

Step 2: What will you need to do if there is no water at the house?

Do you have enough drinking water stored (three litres per person per day for three days or more)?	
What if your bore hole or supply is contaminated or cut off?	
Do you have water for your pets and your animals? What will you cook and clean with? What will you use for a toilet?	
Are your water distribution systems well-maintained and clear?	
Do you have an alternative source of emergency stock water if your only source is currently surface water from a stream or river?	
If your water source is from a stream or river, do you have adequate tank water storage or other covered storage and that stored water can be distributed if pumping facilities are disrupted such as gravity-fed systems?	
Does your farmhouse have a disconnect valve on roof-fed rainwater tanks and stockpile bottled water?	

Step 3: What will you need to do if there is no power?

How will you cook, stay warm, see at night (do not use candles as they are a fire hazard)?	
Do you have spare cash in case ATMs are not working?	
Do you have access to fuel in case petrol pumps are not working?	

Step 4: We're stuck on farm - what now?

Do we have emergency supplies?

Do we have food and drink for three days or more (for everyone including babies and pets)?

Do we have working torches, a radio, and batteries?

Are your first aid/medical supplies easy to find and up to date?

Who locally has the equipment you might need, such as generators or diggers? Your local Catchment Group Coordinator can help you complete this section.

Do we know how to turn off water, power and gas?

Only turn these off if you suspect a leak or damaged lines or if you are instructed to do so by authorities. If you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on.

Step 5: We need to evacuate

What are your evacuation routes and assembly points?

How will you get there? If you live near the coast, make sure it is outside of all tsunami evacuation zones. Where will you stay if you can't get back to your home?

Your local Catchment Group Coordinator can help you complete this section, as there may be a local Hall or Marae that is the community assembly point.

Meeting location

Where will you meet if you can't contact each other and are separated when an emergency occurs? How will you get there?

If you have to leave in a hurry, do you have grab bags?

Does everyone have grab bags* in case you need to evacuate? At home, at work, in the car? *A small bag with warm clothes, a torch, radio, first aid kit, snack food and water.

Keep stocks of P2 or N95 masks, goggles, sturdy footwear and protective clothing that covers arms and legs.

Make detailed notes on where the grab bags are stored:

Step 6: Helping our family, neighbours and community

Do you know your neighbours?

Name:

Are there any friends, family or neighbours who might need your help to get through an emergency at home or to evacuate?

Contact Number:

Name:	Contact Number:
Name:	Contact Number:
Name:	Contact Number:
Who are your useful contacts?	
Your local Catchment Group Coord	dinator can help you complete this section.
Rural Support Trust	
Catchment Group	
111 in an emergency	
Council emergency hotline	
Medical centre/Doctor	
Landlord/Farm Owner	
Insurance company	

Power company

Day care/school

What about the kids?

If yo	u are n	ot able	to pick	children (up from	school,	day care	, afterschool	care,	etc.,	who
will?	Do the	y know	? Does	the school	ol / day	care ha	ve their d	etails?			

Your Farm

Step 1: Know your farm and know the types of emergencies that might impact it

What are the most likely local hazards facing your rural community, e.g. earthquakes, floods, storms, wildfires and isolation. Your local Catchment Group Coordinator can help you complete this section.

Assess Risks and Vulnerabilities	
What potential adverse weather conditions does your area usually get? (e.g., heavy rain, snowstorms, floods, extreme heat)	
How would these events affect your farm operations, infrastructure and people?	

Understand your insurance policy

Check your farm insurance policy so you know what is covered/excluded in relation to volcanic eruption. Understanding your insurance may help you make early decisions to protect your stock and assets.

Step 2: Livestock and Animal Welfare

Plan for the safety and well-being	Yes	No	
Where could you shift livestock, e.g. to drier, lower-risk paddocks?			
How can you save crops in drier, s	heltered areas?		
Are you strategically grazing pade	docks, avoiding wet spots?		
Have you made arrangements to or concrete yards?	stand cows off on laneways		
Have you considered cold stress in	n wet, windy conditions?		
Is there adequate food and water for livestock?			
Which parts of your farm may be safer for livestock during eruptions?			
As pasture in paddocks may be contaminated with ash until the next rainfall, what supplementary feed do you have available to feed stock and can it be supplied without it getting contaminated? E.g. covered feedpad.			
Plan for how you will evacuate stock – where they will go, and in what order of priority you will evacuate them?			

Make sure all of your stock has ID or NAIT tags so if they are moved off farm they can be identified.

The impact of ashfall on animal health cannot be predicted until the ash has been tested for its chemical composition. Having said that, animals will tend not to eat pasture contaminated by harmful ash due to the taste. Sheep and goats are more likely to be affected from ash ingestion than cows, due to how they graze.

Step 2.1: Dry weather planning

Dry weather is an emergency that we know is likely to happen more often as our climate changes. It can have serious impacts on our animals and our land, but the good news is that early planning can minimise the serious impacts.

There are some helpful resources available on preparing for dry weather.

- MPI preparing for dry weather factsheet
- NIWA's Seasonal Climate Outlook
- NIWA's Drought Forecasting Dashboard
- NIWA's Drought Monitor
- NIWA's Daily Climate maps
- MetService rain radar
- When Wildfire Threatens
- Fire risk conditions
- DairyNZ webinar on managing dry conditions
- Beef + Lamb NZ drought resources
- Taranaki Rural Support Trust

Please also refer to the Good Farm Animal Welfare module 4 for more information.

The following tables provides a checklist for you to consider as dry weather becomes an issue – and ideally, even before that happens.

Feed Planning

Task	Completed	Notes
Stockpile feed during favourable seasons to ensure reserves during dry periods.		
Explore alternative feed sources, such as silage or hay, and consider planting drought-resistant crops. Important to consider FEI impacts.		
Adjust grazing strategies to prevent overgrazing and allow pastures to recover.		
Plan and implement stock reductions of cull cows early to minimise feed competition. Book space early to avoid delays.		

Water Management

Task	Completed	Notes
Your water take for domestic, stock or farm dairy use must stay less than 1.5 litres a second or 50 cubic metres a day, and less than 25% of the stream flow in catchments without additional restrictions. Water use above this level will require a resource consent.		
Regularly check and fix water leaks to preserve water supply.		
Implement efficient irrigation systems and regularly maintain them to minimise water wastage.		
Install water storage solutions, such as tanks or reservoirs, to ensure a steady supply during dry spells.		
Monitor water usage and plan for restrictions, prioritising essential needs.		

Financial and Risk Planning

Task	Completed	Notes
Develop a budget to account for potential increased costs during droughts.		
Consider insurance options to cover losses due to extreme weather events.		
Consider alternate milking frequencies OAD or 3:2 milking to take pressure off cows and reduce demand before feed is reduced.		
Consider, where applicable to your farm operation, a staged dry off of some of your herd, whilst milking on capital stock.		

Keep your accountant and bank manager updated on a regular basis. They may have ways to help you that you don't know about.			
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Community Collaboration

Task	Completed	Notes
Share resources and knowledge with neighbouring farmers or your local catchment group to collectively address challenges.		
Engage with local farming organisations or your levy group, DairyNZ, for support and advice.		
Share and attend dry event/drought workshops to connect with other farmers and rural professionals for advice and support.		
Visit your local Rural Support Trust website and FB page to access helpful information including various assistance measures available through MSD and IRD (where applicable)		
Keep your accountant and bank manager updated on a regular basis. They may have ways to help you that you don't know about.		

Mental Resilience

Task	Completed	Notes
Register and attend drought workshops and take a farmer mate with you. Take the opportunity to get off farm and reconnect with other farmers going through similar challenges.		
Ensure you have access to resources to cope with stress during tough times.		

Step 3: Infrastructure and Environment

Infrastructure and Environment	Yes	No
Have you chosen areas that minimise environmental impact, such as soil damage, runoff, and flood risk?		
Are you avoiding letting cows stand on hard surfaces for extended periods?		
Are you taking measures to prevent effluent runoff into waterways?		
Have you considered using feed pads or grass strips for standing cows off?		

Step 4: Power supply and equipment

Power supply and equipment	Yes	No
Have you assessed the power supply to electric fences?		
Do you have backup power sources available if needed?		
Is all your equipment in working order?		
Can you run equipment from tractor power take offs if necessary?		
Do you have enough filters for your generator and other key farming equipment and vehicles?		
Do you have fuel for your farm equipment and generators on site in case of accessibility issues?		
Do you have an air-compressor for effectively cleaning ash from machinery?		

Step 5: Communication

Communication	Yes	No
Does everyone on the farm know what to do if bad weather hits?		
Have you established communication channels (phones, radios) to stay connected during emergencies?		
Have you conducted drills to practice executing the plan?		

Risk identified	Rating	Existing actions	New actions (if needed)	Due date	Responsible person	Evidence