

Dry Seasonal Conditions Support in Northern and North West Victoria

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

APRIL 2019

TECHNICAL SUPPORT		
Farming and Community Group Drought Funding Program NEW	<p>Applications are now open for the Farming and Community Group Drought Funding Program.</p> <p>Victorian farmer, landholder, not for profit and community groups are invited to engage technical experts for the provision of capability building workshops and events to prepare and respond to dry seasonal conditions and or drought.</p> <p>The program is available to eligible groups in the following Local Government Areas: Gannawarra, Loddon, Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Benalla, Wangaratta, Wodonga, Indigo, Alpine, Towong, Mildura, Yarriambiack, Horsham, Northern Grampians, Buloke, Hindmarsh, Swan Hill.</p>	<p>Visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</p> <p>Email: drought.support@ecodev.vic.gov.au</p>
Refocused Plan2Farm Program	<p>Delivered in partnership across the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and coordinated by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, this program assists and supports farmers in making informed decisions about their farming future. The program includes managing current seasonal conditions, optimising investment, farm productivity, irrigation decisions and succession planning. Plan2Farm involves one-on-one support from either an Agriculture Victoria or Murray Dairy staff member and may include the services of a consultant.</p>	<p>To register contact North Central Catchment Management Authority: http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/ Phone: (03) 5448 7124</p> <p>For information contact Agriculture Victoria, Matt Hawken on 0418 143 922 or (03) 5450 9528</p>
Technical and decision-making support for farm businesses	<p>Additional services to be delivered by Agriculture Victoria and associated industry partners that will provide increased technical support to assist farm businesses manage dry seasonal conditions.</p>	<p>For upcoming farmer workshops, dry season preparedness information visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information</p>
One-on-one consultation sessions (Dairy)	<p>Agriculture Victoria will provide a one-to-one service in collaboration with Dairy Australia to provide Victorian dairy farmers with support and a broad suite of information tailored to their individual needs, including but not limited to feed budgeting, feed rations, partial budgets, hay and crop decision making, water use and resource management.</p>	<p>For information contact Agriculture Victoria, Brett Davidson, Tatura, (03) 5833 5206</p>
Stock Containment Areas	<p>Agriculture Victoria has developed a package of resources to support farmers in designing stock containment areas. Stock containment areas are a valuable tool to manage livestock and to protect soil and pasture resources during adverse seasonal conditions.</p>	<p>For dry season preparedness information visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information</p>
Feeding Beef and Sheep	<p>Agriculture Victoria has developed booklets on feeding and managing beef and sheep during dry seasonal conditions.</p>	
Weather and Climate	<p>Information, tools and resources to support climate change risk management within the Victorian agricultural sector.</p>	

REGIONAL SUPPORT		
Emergency Water Supply Point (EWSP) improvement program	<p>A new initiative to improve access to EWSPs across areas where there is a high incidence of water carting. This program will provide additional access to emergency water supply points for both stock and domestic purposes.</p>	<p>Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186 or visit www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points</p>
Managing wildlife	<p>The Authority to Control Wildlife program supports the control of wildlife through increased state-wide processing resources under the Authority To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system.</p>	<p>Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186</p>
Catchment Management Authorities Drought Employment Program	<p>An initiative targeting parts of North East Catchment Management Authority to provide off-farm employment and training will be provided to farmers, farm workers and individuals affected by drought.</p>	<p>Call East Gippsland CMA Reception on (03) 5152 0600 or egcma@egcma.com.au</p>

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Regional Dry Seasonal Conditions Coordinator	<p>The coordinator will act as a key point of co-ordination at the local level, providing information on drought services, support options, emerging risks and pressures in their region.</p>	<p>Northern Victoria Bianca Stapleton, Agriculture Victoria, Echuca (03) 5482 1922</p> <p>North West Victoria Robert O'Shannessy, Agriculture Victoria, Horsham (03) 5362 2111</p>
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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Farm Support Fund NOW OPEN	<p>The Farm Support Fund will provide a one-off support payment of \$2,500 for non-dairy farm businesses that are Farm Household Allowance (FHA) recipients in Northern and North West Victoria.</p> <p>Eligible farmers are invited to apply for a one-off payment via the Farm Business Assistance program.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au</p>
On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants	<p>Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) are available to eligible farm businesses in Northern and North West Victoria. Eligible farm businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution.</p> <p>The grants program will assist farm businesses implement on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au</p>
On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme	<p>The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is now available to assist farmers impacted by drought and dry seasonal conditions invest in urgently-needed on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs.</p> <p>The rebate funding is being made available by the Australian Government.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au</p>
Farm Business Assistance Program	<p>The Farm Business Assistance program provides a one-off support payment to farm businesses in Wellington Shire and East Gippsland Shire and eligible dairy farmers in Northern and North-West Victoria.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au</p>
Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)	<p>Additional funding to support the RFCS provide free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance (FHA).</p>	<p>Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East RFCS: 1300 834 775 • North West RFCS: 1300 769 489 • Western RFCS: 1300 735 578 <p>or visit www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service</p>
Farm Household Allowance (Aust Govt)^	<p>The Australian Government makes an income support payment available to eligible farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.</p>	<p>Call 132 316 or visit www.humanservices.gov.au</p>
Farmer Assistance Hotline (Aust Govt)	<p>Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities.</p>	<p>Call 132 316 or visit www.humanservices.gov.au</p>
Farm Debt Mediation	<p>The scheme makes it compulsory for banks and other creditors to offer mediation to farmers before commencing debt recovery proceedings on farm mortgages.</p>	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation Email: farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au</p>

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Regional Investment Corporation Farm Business Concessional Loans (Aust Govt)^	The Australian Government has established the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC). From 1 July 2018, farmers need to apply to the RIC for the Australian Government's farm business concessional loans. The RIC offers two loan products for eligible farm businesses in Victoria: Drought Loans and Farm Investment Loans.	Call 1800 875 675 or visit ric.gov.au/
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[^]Eligibility criteria and loan amounts have recently changed.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT		
Mental Health Support	The Mental Health Support package includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional counselling and co-ordination • Psychological first aid training 	Call the Agriculture Victoria Line on 136 186. If you need immediate assistance with your mental health and wellbeing, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. If you need emergency assistance, call 000.
National Centre for Farmer Health	The NCFH provides ongoing leadership to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers, their families and communities across Victoria. Additional programs have been funded and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrisafe Drought Service • Health and Lifestyle assessments • Community presentations • Interactive workshops • Service Co-ordinator 	Call the National Centre for Farmer Health on (03) 5551 8533 or visit farmerhealth.org.au
Look Over the Farm Gate Program	Look Over the Farm Gate will deliver health and wellbeing support for farmers and communities through community awareness and social and emotional wellbeing workshops and events.	Call 1300 882 833 or visit https://lookoverthefarmgate.org.au
MensLine Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78 or visit mensline.org.au
Kids Help Line	24/7 telephone and online counselling service for people aged 5 - 25.	Call 1800 55 1800 or visit kidshelpline.com.au
Family Relationship Service	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 or visit familyrelationships.gov.au
Victorian Better Health Channel	Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date and easy to understand.	Visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au
Beyondblue	24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.	Call 1300 224 636 or visit beyondblue.org.au
Lifeline	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.	Call 131 114 or visit lifeline.org.au

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For more information about Agriculture Victoria go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.