



A handy checklist when planning for drought

- ☐ Review what worked well during the last prolonged dry period and consider what changes you need to make.
- ☐ Check climate forecast
 - [Climate Outlook Review | NACP](#)
- ☐ Did you get enough rain over the growing season to sustain your stock until the break of season?
 - ☐ Determine the date when you can expect green feed (green date)
[Calculating your Green Date | NACP YouTube](#)
 - ☐ Work out how many stock you have
 - ☐ Complete a forage budget
[Stocking rate calculator | MLA](#)
 - ☐ Consider destocking if there is not enough feed available for current stock numbers until the expected break of the season. Make sure you consider all the stock types you run, including cattle and goats.
- ☐ Identify animals to destock, such as ewes scanned empty, poor performers, wethers
 - [Classing and culling | MLA](#)
- ☐ Separate animals into mobs based on their nutritional requirements for access to better feed or targeted supplementation, for example ewes with twins and ewes with singles
 - [Feeding and managing sheep in dry times | AWI](#)
- ☐ Consider strategic earlier weaning
 - [Weaning – Setting Up For Success | AWI](#)
- ☐ Complete a cost benefit analysis of supplementation
 - [Costing supplements | FutureBeef](#)
- ☐ Do a stocktake of feed and supplements available
 - Preparation is essential as supplements can often be difficult to find and more expensive the longer the drought goes on for.
- ☐ Consider how long surface water will be available and if alternative water sources will be required
 - [Stocktaking water supply for livestock | NSW DPI](#)
- ☐ Review finances – do you have access to farm management deposits or other cash reserves? Do you need to consider selling stock to increase cash reserves in preparation for a potential prolonged dry period?
 - Seek help from the [Rural Financial Counselling Service | RSQ](#)
- ☐ Find out what mental health support is available for you and your family
 - [Mental health resources | QRIDA](#)
- ☐ Keep an eye out for market opportunities created by the drought.



Contact your local extension officer to help you get prepared for dry times



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