

Resources and tools for dry times

September 2026

A collection of some of the available practical resources, online tools, videos and webinar recordings compiled by Southern NSW Innovation Hub farmers and advisers facing dry times.

General information and forecasts

Resource	Information	Source
Online tool: My Climate View	My Climate View by Climate Services for Agriculture gives farmers and farm advisors future climate projections for specific commodities at a local scale right across Australia.	Future Drought Fund / CSIRO / Bureau of Meteorology
Web page (interactive map): Combined Drought Indicator	The Combined Drought Indicator Map helps people understand the emergence of drought in their area.	NSW Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD)
Web page: State Seasonal Update	The State Seasonal Update gives an overview of seasonal conditions in NSW.	NSW DPIRD
Website: Drought in NSW	The NSW Government Drought website is a one-stop online destination for information and support available to primary producers to prepare for and manage drought.	NSW DPIRD
App: Farm Tracker	The Farm Tracker App is a simple tool that helps monitor seasonal conditions on your property.	NSW DPIRD
Booklet: Managing drought, fire and flood guide	The Managing drought, fire and flood guide includes planning, strategies and a drought action plan.	NSW DPIRD

Livestock and feeding

Resource	Information	Source
Web page and templates: Drought decision making	A clear drought plan helps landholders act early and reduce risk. Learn how to set trigger points, make timely decisions, protect your farm, livestock and business with a drought plan.	Local Land Services (LLS)
5-minute videos: Tips for livestock producers in dry times	YouTube videos with quick tips and tricks for landholders facing dry times on the topics of: 1. Animal nutrition 2. Water quality 3. Livestock care 4. Pastures and groundcover	LLS
Online tool/calculator: Drought and supplementary feed calculator	The drought and supplementary feed calculator is an essential tool for sheep and cattle producers to develop drought feed rations and rations for dry periods when supplementary feeding is required.	NSW DPIRD
Calculator: Feed demand calculator	The MLA Feed Demand Calculator is a tool for sheep and cattle producers that calculates, for each month of the year, the total feed demand of all the cattle and sheep on your property.	Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)
Video: The big question: Do I keep and feed or sell	Watch the recording of the <i>Do I keep and feed or sell</i> webinar to see advisor Phil Graham talk about the key factors to consider and explore various destocking options for sheep and cattle operations and their associated impacts on livestock numbers and cash flow in the short to medium term.	LLS
Video: Feeding cattle in dry times	Watch the recording of the <i>Feeding cattle in dry times</i> webinar to see beef cattle consultant Jeff House discuss the key principles in managing feeding cattle during dry times.	LLS
Video: Feeding sheep in dry times	Watch the recording of the <i>Feeding sheep in dry times</i> webinar to see sheep consultant Geoff Duddy discuss key principles in managing feeding sheep during dry times.	LLS
Video: Early weaning of calves and lambs	Watch the recording of the <i>Early weaning of calves and lambs</i> webinar to understand: – Better utilisation of feed resources, both pastures and supplementary feeds – Increased market flexibility – Maintaining herd productivity through fertility and longer recovery times.	LLS

Resource	Information	Source
Booklet: <u>Guide to confinement feeding sheep and cattle in NSW</u>	Read Local Land Services' Guide to <u>confinement feeding</u> to learn how to maintain livestock production during periods of limited feed availability and maintain groundcover across other parts of the property.	LLS
Video: <u>Fundamentals of confinement feeding</u>	In the Fundamentals of confinement feeding video, Brett Littler from Local Land Services gives an overview of what a confinement feeding system is, the benefits it delivers and practical advice on managing for the best results.	LLS

Farm water management

Resource	Information	Source
Resources: Farm Water Management Planning	- Develop your own Farm Water Management Plan using the Template - Develop your own Farm Water Management Plan with a workbook for high rainfall zones (>600mm p/a) or a workbook for lower rainfall zones (<500mm p/a) - View an example Farm Water Management Plan for a high rainfall zone or for a lower rainfall zone	LLS / Southern NSW Innovation Hub
Online tool: Summer (farm) water calculator	An online summer water calculator to keep a check on water levels in your dams and tanks and to estimate how long water for stock will last.	Agriculture Victoria
Video: Measuring the depth of your dam	Watch the video about how to measure the depth of your dam and calculate its volume.	Agriculture Victoria
Booklet: Enhancing farm dams	Use the booklet to understand how to enhance farm dams for improved water quality, water security and farm productivity, while also supporting biodiversity.	ANU Sustainable Farms
Online guide: Farm dams technical guide	A guide to the design and construction of high-performing dams	ANU Sustainable Farms
YouTube playlist: Video case studies and webinar how-to recordings	Watch video case studies where landholders share their experiences developing Farm Water Management Plans and making changes on farm to improve water quality and availability.	LLS / Holbrook Landcare Network

Pasture management

Resource	Information	Source
Calculator: Pasture improvement calculator	The MLA Pasture Improvement Calculator helps to determine the costs and benefits of resowing pastures compared to current practice.	MLA
Tool: Australian Feedbase Monitor	The Australian Feedbase Monitor is a world-first tool to help producers improve grazing management, forage budgeting and ground cover.	MLA
Web page: Pasture Tech Hub	The Pasture Tech Hub provides information on various aspects of perennial pasture management. Resources include information on pasture mixes, lucerne persistence, farmer experiences, scaled-out modelling of pasture management and location-specific information for perennial pasture management in southern NSW.	Holbrook Landcare Network
Farmer case study: Drought resilient pastures	John Bruce (Barooga) and Chantelle and Christine Gorman (Savernake) share their insights on establishing and maintaining productive perennial legume-based pastures over the long term.	Riverine Plains