



Information for Producers Affected by the Extreme Dryness/Drought Conditions

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Manitoba Beef Producers has compiled the following information which may be useful to producers facing extreme dryness/drought conditions on their farms and ranches. MBP also identified with the Manitoba government in early May the seriousness of the situation and requested that certain actions be taken as soon as possible to assist producers in dealing with these challenges.

Resources for Sourcing Feed or Pastures

Farmers and producers have several options when it comes to listing available hay and straw, and for buying hay, straw and alternative feeds. By no means is this list exhaustive and we encourage you to share other avenues for listing and buying with Manitoba Beef Producers, so that we can share them with our members.

Manitoba Government Hay Listing Service

The [Manitoba Hay Listing Service](#) provides an inventory of hay and alternative feed for sale and pasture for rent. If you have hay, alternative feed, or pasture land for sale or rent contact an [ARD and MASC Service Centre](#) to have your listing added.

Social Media/Buy and Sell Sites

There are a number of social media and buy/sell sites that provide hay, straw and alternative feed sourcing options:

[Kijiji Manitoba](#)

[eBrandon Classifieds](#)

[Manitoba Hay & Feed for Buy/Sell](#)

[Hay / Feed For Sale in Saskatchewan, Alberta & Manitoba](#)

[Internet Hay Exchange](#)

Other social media avenues including Twitter also feature hay for sale across the province, however that exchange needs to occur on a user to user basis.

MFGA Hay Relief Website

Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association has a hay relief page. See <https://www.mfga.net/hay-relief>

Manitoba Agriculture Resources for Producers Affected by Dry Conditions

Manitoba Agriculture's Livestock page also has several tools and resources for dry conditions. It covers topics such as: early weaning of calves during periods of drought; the economics of creep feeding beef calves on pasture; stretching feed when supplies are tight; alternative feeds for beef cattle; straw as an alternative roughage source for wintering beef cows; and feed testing, among others.

See: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/index.html>

Dry Conditions and Livestock

- [Rotational Grazing](#)
- [Improving Forage Establishment](#)
- [Managing Spring Grazing](#)
- [Dugout Management and Water Quality](#)
- [Pasture Watering Systems](#)
- [Providing Water on Pasture](#)
- [Annual Crops an Excellent Way to Increase Feeding Flexibility](#)
- [Spring Grazing](#)
- [Planned Grazing - Video](#)
- [Planned Grazing](#) - (Stocktalk, March 18, 2021)
- [Managing your Pastures and Rangeland during Dry Conditions](#)
- [Summer Seeding For Forages \(OMAFRA\)](#)
- [Beware of toxic plants in pastures](#) (Canadian Cattlemen. The Beef Magazine Dec 5, 2018)

Beef Cattle Research Council Resources Related to Drought Management

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/resources-for-drought-management/>

Recurring [drought](#) is a natural part of the climate in many areas of Canada and creates a challenge when managing grazing and forage resources. Although droughts are often unpredictable, they are inevitable, meaning they are often at the back of every producer's mind. Long-term farm and ranch management must include planning for and consideration of how drought will affect the entire system – including plants, livestock and water sources.

Eight tips for drought management

- When managing through a drought, consider combining groups of animals to encourage grazing of less desirable plants and grazing pastures with species that are more tolerant of increased grazing pressure. It is important to monitor for toxic or poisonous plants, which are more likely to be grazed during dry years.
- Sources of water for grazing animals can quickly become limited or unavailable during drought periods. It is recommended that any pastures that could possibly run out of water be grazed first. In some cases, it may become necessary to use a portable stock water supply in order to continue grazing a forage source where water has become limited.
- Producers should consider pumping water from the source to a trough to help extend water supplies, maintain water quality and prevent cattle from getting stuck in watering sites that are drying up.
- [Stock water quality](#) can deteriorate rapidly. Even if water quantity appears adequate, poor water quality can quickly cause health and production problems and even death. Test stock water sources frequently when animals are grazing.
- Extended [rest periods and increased recovery times](#) are necessary to protect plants during dry periods.
- Consider planting annual crops, supplementing pastures with alternate feeds, or creep feeding, to help extend grazing resources. [Feed testing](#) is an important consideration during dry conditions.

- Drought management strategies should be a permanent part of every grazing plan. The benefits of rotational grazing and managing pastures to retain litter (plant residue) are especially evident during drought.
- Drought plans should identify the order of groups or classes of livestock to be de-stocked, if necessary, and at what point each group will be moved if the drought persists.

The following are some current drought management resources available for beef producers.

- [Drought Management Strategies](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council web page)
- [Drought Management Strategies](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council blog post)
- [Dealing with Drought: Key Facts for Beef Producers](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council factsheet)
- [Canadian Drought Monitor](#) (Government of Canada web page)
- [Conserving Pasture Production During Dry Conditions](#) (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs web page)
- [Fall Pasture Fertility Management After A Dry Summer](#) (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs article)
- [What's In Your Water? Water Quality and the Economics of Pump Systems](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council webinar recording)
- [Alternative Feeds](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council web page)
- [Managing Forage in a Dry Year](#) (Canadian Cattlemen Magazine article)
- [Feed Testing & Analysis for Beef Cattle](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council web page)
- [How to Manage for Drought with Grazing](#) (Foothills Forage and Grazing Association video)
- [Stretching Feed Supplies](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council blog post)
- [Is Creep Feeding an Answer to Your Pasture Woes?](#) (Beef Cattle Research Council blog post)

Miscellaneous Resources

Manitoba Agriculture Crop Reports

The Crop Report provides information on progress of seeding and crop establishment, crop development, any pest activity including weeds, insects and disease, harvest progress, crop yields and grades, fall field work progress, and status of winter cereal crop seeding and establishment. In addition, it provides information on haying progress and estimated yields, as well as pasture conditions. Go to:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports/crop-report-archive/index.html>

Manitoba Drought Monitor

The [Manitoba Drought Monitor](#) highlights the various drought management efforts currently underway in Manitoba. This includes monthly Water Availability and Drought Conditions Reports that use drought indicators to classify the level of dryness and to summarize any drought impacts that are occurring.

Canadian Drought Monitor

The Canadian Drought Monitor (CDM) is Canada's official source for the monitoring and reporting of drought in Canada. From this page you can access a variety of products and information about current drought conditions across the country. See: <https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agriculture-and-the-environment/drought-watch/canadian-drought-monitor/?id=1463575104513>

Agroclimate Impact Reporter Program

The Agroclimate Impact Reporter (AIR) helps to connect Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) with people in Canada's agricultural community. AAFC relies on its network of AIR volunteers to provide information

regarding agroclimate impacts across the country, such as the effects of dry conditions/droughts on production. Manitoba Beef Producers notes that cattle producer input to this network is important.

The AIR network provides valuable and reliable data that are mapped and used in the assessment and development of policies and programs including AgriRecovery and the Livestock Tax Deferral Provision, which can provide assistance to the industry during extreme weather and climate conditions and events.

The AIR survey is open during the last week of the month over the growing season (April to October) and is intended to collect weather and climate impacts on farm operations across Canada over the previous month. Survey results are made into maps and published on the Drought Watch website the first week of every month during the growing season.

To participate, visit: <https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agriculture-and-the-environment/drought-watch/agroclimate-impact-reporter/?id=1463575416544>

Manitoba's Wildfire Service

Manitoba Conservation and Climate Wildfire Service is responsible for the prevention, detection and suppression of wildfires.

To report a Wildfire call 1-800-782-0076 (toll-free).

The Wildfire Service's website includes valuable information such as:

- [Fire & Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Daily Situation Report](#)
- [Current Fire Update Report](#)
- [Interactive Map of Current Wildfires](#)
- [Fire Danger Map](#)

For more information go to: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/index.html>

Coping with Stress

For information about the Manitoba Farm and Rural Support Services line go to: <https://supportline.ca/> or call 1-866-367-3276 (line operates 24/7).

Klinik Community Health also has resources available. See: <https://klinik.mb.ca/>