



Planning for Drought Checklist

- Review what worked well during the last prolonged dry period and consider what changes you need to make
- Check the climate forecast - [Climate Outlook Review | NACP & Long-range forecasts | BOM](#)
- Did you get enough rain over the growing season to sustain your stock until the break of season?
 - Determine decision dates - [How to use decision dates in grazing | FutureBeef](#)
 - Complete a forage budget - [Forage budgeting and pasture utilisation | FutureBeef](#)
 - Determine your green date for a high probability for break of season - [Calculating your Green Date | NACP YouTube](#)
 - If you don't already know work out how many stock you have of each class - [Good records - giving you data that delivers | FutureBeef](#)
- Consider early weaning - [A comprehensive guide to weaning calves early | FutureBeef & Dry season management of a beef business: A guide to planning, managing and supplementary feeding](#)
- Consider destocking, agisting or opportunity feedlotting if there is not enough feed available for current stock numbers until the expected break of the season- [Beef business tools | FutureBeef](#)
- Identify animals to sell, such as empty cows and poor performers
- Separate animals into mobs based on their nutritional requirements for access to better feed or targeted supplementation - [How to get the most out of your breeders in Northern Gulf continuous mating systems | FutureBeef](#)
- 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
- 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](#)
- 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

Further information:

For more information, visit the FutureBeef website or contact your local extension officer

