

Victorian Dairy Industry Bushfire Recovery Directory

Below is a comprehensive directory of all support and recovery services, funding, and technical advice relevant to dairy farms affected by recent bushfires in Victoria, across northern Victoria and East Gippsland.

This information will be updated as more information becomes available. The last updated field will indicate when content was last amended.

1. Emergency response information

Updates on fire conditions and road closures

For fire warning information - [Vic Emergency website/app](#)

Latest road traffic information - [Vic Traffic](#)

Fodder

For all fodder requests or fodder donations contact the Victorian Farmers Federation

T: 1300 882 833

Stock Issues or Stock Loss

For all inquiries related to stock loss, contact

Agriculture Victoria T: 1800 226 226

[AgVic information for assessing fire affected livestock](#)

2. State government fire recovery services

Emergency Victoria has a 'relief and recovery' page dedicated to services available following 2019-20 bushfires, including information a recovery centres, available financial support, fencing, animal health and welfare, health and wellbeing and more.

[Emergency Victoria 'Relief and Recovery'](#)

Agriculture Victoria's 'current incidents' emergency recovery page also has practical advice on bushfire recovery and a long list of available support services.

[Agriculture Victoria's 'current incidents'](#)

3. Commonwealth Government financial assistance

Commonwealth Government Disaster Recovery Payment	\$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child for people severely affected by bushfires.	Human Services 180 22 66 www.humanservices.gov.au
Commonwealth Government Disaster Recovery Allowance	Disaster Recovery Allowance is a short term payment to help you if a declared disaster directly affects your income.	Human Services 180 22 66 www.humanservices.gov.au
Farm Household Support	A payment for farming families facing hardship	132 316 www.humanservices.gov.au Search Farm Household Allowance

4. Dairy Australia Bushfire Recovery Support

Dairy Australia is providing farmers impacted by bushfires, with one to one support with an experienced dairy consultant who can advise you on getting your business up and running again.'

What support is being offered?

Confidential advice is provided with a focus on

- Feed budgeting
- Water budgeting
- Cashflow budgeting
- Animal health and welfare

The adviser will conduct a face-to-face visit at a mutually agreed location and work with you to produce an action plan. Local Dairy Australia extension staff will follow-up to offer further support on your action plan.

Who is eligible?

All dairy farms impacted by Dec 2019/Jan 2020 fires are eligible for this free-of-charge service

How do I access it?

Step 1: Contact your local Dairy Australia team

- **Murray Dairy** - Lachlan Barnes, 0438 092 352, lachlanb@murraydairy.com.au
- **GippsDairy** - 03 5624 3900

Step 2: They will take your details and provide you with a list of approved advisers

Step 3: The adviser will contact you to arrange a time to meet

For more information about how Murray Dairy is supporting farmers following bushfires, follow on [facebook](#) or call 03 5833 5312.

For more information about how Gipps Dairy is supporting farmers following bushfires, follow on [facebook](#) or call 03 5624 3900.

5. NFF FarmHub

Thousands of farmers in southern Australia have been impacted by the current bushfire crisis. This page contains details for where to access information and assistance. This page will be updated as new services become available.

<https://farmhub.org.au/live-bushfire-assistance-key-contacts/>

6. VFF Disaster Relief

The Victorian Farmers Federation is coordinating fodder relief for farmers affected by bushfires in Gippsland and the Upper Murray. The VFF has secured an agreement with the Victorian Government to facilitate the transport of fodder to affected regions. This includes reimbursement of freight costs for transport of donated fodder.

All farmers who have been impacted by these fires are strongly urged to seek help by contacting the VFF as soon as possible.

This website also lists offers of adjustment and offers to host cow parking for those interested.

<http://www.vff.org.au/donations>

7. Assessing fire affected livestock

- [Assessing teat burns](#), Dairy Australia
- [Assessing bush fire burns in livestock](#), NSW DPI
- [Assessing cattle after a bushfire](#), AgVic
- [Humane killing and disposal of sick or injured cattle](#), DA

8. Managing power outages

The power can go out at any time due to localised issues such as a fallen tree or following a flood or bushfire.

- [Preparing for power outages](#) will help you develop a contingency plan that will save time and keep the dairy operational during a power outage.
- If the power does go out, our tips for [Milking through power outages](#) will help minimise recovery efforts by keeping the farm working during a prolonged power disruption.
- DairyNZ also have good advice on [preparing for power outages](#) and [managing missed milkings](#)
- Emergency Milk Disposal advice from [AgVic](#) and [DairyNZ](#)

9. Pasture recovery and managing feed – fire recovery specific

The following resources offer specific advice on pasture recovery for fire affected dairy farms.

- [Pasture recovery after fire](#) and [quick reference guide](#), AgVic
- [Ruminant Nutrition After a Bushfire](#), Coprice and Dairy Australia
- [Keeping cows on the curve when changing diets](#), DA
- [Keeping cows on the curve through summer](#) fact sheet, DA
- [Farm recovery after bushfire](#), AgVic

10. Feedbase and feeding systems - general

The following Dairy Australia resources on feedbase management and feeding systems may be relevant to farmers recovering from the impact of fires and managing risks associated with changing feed.

- [Back of the envelope feed budget](#)
- [Feed budgeting tool](#)
- [Maintaining cow health when changing diets](#)
- [Pasture renovation in autumn](#)
- [Pasture renovation in autumn - selecting pastures for cropping video](#)
- [Pasture renovation in autumn - maximising your investment video](#)
- [Pasture renovation in autumn - management techniques](#)
- [Feed decisions & alternatives video with Dave Barber](#)
- [Facts about fibre](#)
- [Managing quality and supply risks when buying feed](#)
- [Feeding supplements](#)
- [Designing balanced milker diets](#)
- [Keeping cows on the curve with little or no pasture video](#)
- [Facts on alternative fibre sources](#)
- [Feed budgeting](#)
- [Feed lab testing - getting a good sample](#)
- [Feed value varies in different feeds](#)
- [Managing a fodder shortage](#)
- [Managing pasture paddocks in dry conditions](#)
- [Ruminal acidosis risk \(assessing your risk\)](#)
- [The impact of your feeding decisions](#)

- [Transition cow management](#)
- [Dairy Australia hay & grain report](#)
- [Production inputs monitor report](#)

All links above are to Dairy Australia resources

11. Mental health and safety

- [Bushfires and mental health](#), Beyond Blue
- [Building emotional resilience](#)
- [Getting through floods, drought and extreme climate events](#), Lifeline
- [National Centre for farmer health](#) support services directory - Staying healthy and well is important in good times and trying times. Drought, flood, bushfires and change in prices can be a trying time for many farmers. We have compiled this list of resources as an easy reference for you to seek the required support.

12. Farm business management for fire affected farms

- Dairy Australia's webpage on [Extreme weather](#) includes a [Recovery priority checklist](#) to help you organise tasks immediately after a natural disaster has hit
- [Cashflow Budgeting](#)

13. Stock water management

The stock water budgeting tool helps you assess your risk of running short of stock water at key times of the year. The data is used to estimate, from the first day of each month, how many days' water supply you have available.

- [Stock Water Budgeting Tool](#)
- [Stock water planning](#)

It is also important to manage water quality implications of bushfires for stock.

- [Drinking water access and quality](#)
- [Stock water – supply, cow access and quality video](#), DA
- [Private water sources in bushfire-affected areas](#), Farmer Health
- [Practical steps for landowners: Building sediment fences](#), DEPI Vic

14. Preparing for bushfires and extreme weather

- [Listen](#) to tips on how to prepare for extreme weather, fire and flood and some simple steps you can take to protect your family, workers, animals and farm.
- Dairy Australia's [Preparing for bushfire](#) page provides the [Preparing your dairy farm for fire threat toolkit](#), produced in consultation with the CFA to help you plan to best protect your family, staff, livestock, dairy and machinery from all types of fire threat.
- There is a [video](#) to explain fire planning step by step.
- [Managing in hot conditions](#) and [Preparing for dry conditions](#) have information on managing hot and dry conditions, and heat stress on farm.
- [Managing in wet conditions](#) provides information on how to manage risks following flooding
- [Preparing your dairy farm for a bushfire](#), The Vet Group
- [Bushfire Safety for workers](#) - CFA has developed a new online bushfire safety awareness workshop for people who work in high risk bushfire areas. Initially developed for people who work in the community care sector who visit their clients or patients in homes located in high risk areas, it has been broadened to include a range of work sectors. It is structured to suit any person working in high

bushfire risk areas including and not limited to those in the education, justice, health and trades sectors.

- [Preparing for a long, hot summer video](#)

15. Cow parking

Dairy farms impacted by bushfires may need to temporarily relocate milking cows to an alternative farm where they can continue to be milked. This can be a short-term emergency arrangement or a longer-term business agreement.

Bega Cheese and Saputo Dairy Australia have agreed to facilitate cow parking arrangements between farms in fire-affected areas. Farmers with milking cows requiring relocation or farms able to offer cow parking for milking cows should contact these processing companies directly.

Cow parking carries a high risk of introducing mastitis bacteria and/or other animal diseases and should be avoided wherever possible. However during a crisis situation it may be the only viable option to get cows milked.

Read [this fact sheet](#) with information on milk quality and animal health considerations associated with cow parking (including vaccinations and traceability requirements).

If you require assistance with cow parking or can offer this service, please contact:

Bega Cheese T: 02 6491 7787

Saputo Dairy Australia T: 03 9040 5000

Requests and offers for agistment of non-milking animals in Victoria should be directed to Victorian Farmers Federation T: 1300 882 833

16. Offers of assistance

For offer of labour assistance, please contact and register with BlazeAid

<https://blazeaid.com.au/>

Ph: 0418 745 994

If you're looking for other ways to help fire-affected farmers and their families, please visit <http://farmhub.org.au/australian-bushfires-how-you-can-help/> for details on how to donate and assist.

To advise of any corrections or additions to information on this page, please contact Georgia Nicholls via Georgia.nicholls@dairyaustralia.com.au