

Agriculture Drought Risk Management Plan (ADRMP) - FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ADRMP?

The ADRMP is a coordinated and pro-active approach to drought risk management that aligns with other government action plans and incorporates lessons learned from our history with drought and climate change.

What are the key actions of the ADRMP?

- Prepare for drought before, during and after drought episodes, and throughout the year.
- Monitor and report climate and soil conditions with a frequency that assists decision makers.
- Respond through identified options that meet local needs and level of drought conditions.

How was the ADRMP developed?

The ADRMP considers past responses and current opportunities for dealing with drought conditions. Several levels of government and departments provide input and assistance including; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Alberta Environment, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and Agricultural Service Boards and Agricultural Fieldmen.

What are government's goals for the ADRMP?

Government's goals for drought risk management planning are:

- To communicate actions to producers
- To deliver coordinated and effective drought response actions
- To respond to drought consistently over time and between departments
- To monitor and report drought in an effective and timely manner that supports planning and action
- To ensure producers have access to the knowledge required to manage risks arising from variable climatic conditions

How is the ADRMP coordinated?

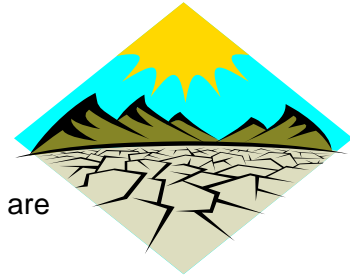
ADRMP activities are coordinated through the partnership of the multi-agency Alberta Drought Advisory Group.

Who is the Alberta Drought Advisory Group (DAG)?

The main partner agencies of the DAG are:

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (www.agric.gov.ab.ca)
- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (www.aamdc.com)
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) (www.afsc.ca)
- Alberta Environment (www.environment.alberta.ca)
- Agri-Environmental Services Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (www.agr.gc.ca/pfra)
- Livestock sector
- Crop sector
- Irrigated Crop sector
- Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
- Wildrose Agricultural Producers Association

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Who benefits from the ADRMP?

The decision makers, including producers, government and industry, that are addressing risk management related to drought.

How will farmers benefit from use the ADRMP?

Alberta's agricultural producers have access to the knowledge provided, to manage risk associated with periodic drought; and are therefore more prepared and less vulnerable to drought.

How does the ADRMP improve government's response to drought?

Planning for actions prior to a drought shortens the response time by government agencies if drought conditions occur. The Plan helps to identify the onset, extent and severity of developing drought conditions more quickly, and allows government to adapt to changing information more quickly.

What is the definition of drought for the ADRMP?

Although there are numerous definitions and perceptions of drought, for the purposes of this Plan 'Drought' is defined as an extended period of below normal precipitation resulting in decreased soil and subsoil moisture levels and diminished surface water supplies affecting crop growth, livestock water or irrigation water.

Does the ADRMP plan for other 'non-drought' conditions?

Yes, actions are developed for three levels of moisture conditions:

- Normal or near normal conditions.
- Exceptional or notable conditions when there is the potential for drought conditions and there is lower than normal precipitation and soil moisture levels.
- Extreme conditions when the province or a portion of the province is suffering drought, according to the indices, and there are severe soil moisture shortages and precipitation deficits.

Will the Growing Forward Program be part of the ADRMP?

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's Growing Forward Program includes two outcomes related to drought preparedness and management. These are:

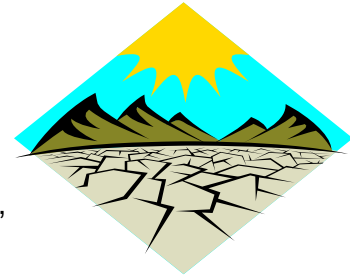
1. Water management objectives to develop and maintain sustainable water supplies;
2. Environmental outcomes to help protect the resources that support farm business.

What is preparedness?

Drought Preparedness focuses on year-round efforts, especially during non-drought times, to increase the level of readiness of the agricultural community and government to respond to the next drought. To be prepared when drought occurs, farm managers make the decision to use, or not to use, a number of drought mitigation tools, such as AFSC insurance and risk management programs, as best fits their business management plan.

For government agencies, preparedness refers to planning and developing actions that will minimize the impact of potential drought conditions.

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Where can I find more information on preparedness?

Several web sites provide information on climatic and weather conditions, production planning, insurance programs and financial services. Links to these can be found on Ropin' the Web www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Financial and insurance programs available through AFSC include:

- AgriInvest (www.agr.gc.ca)
- AgriRecovery (www.agr.gc.ca)
- AgriStability (www.afsc.ca)
- AgriInsurance (www.afsc.ca)

What is monitoring and reporting?

Drought monitoring and reporting includes ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting on soil moisture conditions, precipitation amounts and patterns, and temperature regimes.

For government agencies, monitoring and reporting is a more formal process; however for farmers monitoring and reporting includes knowing and using the information available for planning and decisions.

Will the ADRMP or the DAG designate areas for a tax deferral program as a result of drought?

No. The federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is responsible for recommending areas for designation and the federal Minister of Finance is responsible for invoking the provisions of the *Income Tax Act*. Alberta does provide municipal recommendations to AAFC for tax deferral designation when moisture and forage production conditions indicate the need. More information is available at the web site http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/drought/taxdef_e.htm.

Where can I find the full ADRMP?

The Plan and other drought related information is available on Ropin' the Web (www.agric.gov.ab.ca).

What if my question isn't answered in the FAQ's?

Contact Policy, Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Development (780) 422-9187 or toll free at 310-000. Or send an email question to Duke at duke@gov.ab.ca