

Drought Preparedness Actions

The Plan's 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.

Producers:

- Participate in AFSC insurance and risk management programs.
- Develop secure water supplies, water storage and distribution facilities.
- Improve water conveyance efficiencies.
- Review drought management checklist on Ropin' the Web (www.agric.gov.ab.ca).
- Collect and use best management practices.
- Make preparedness planning a year round activity.

Government:

- Provide drought preparedness and management information.
- Promote water conservation.
- Encourage the development of secure long-term water supplies.
- Promote programs such as the Growing Forward Water Management Program.
- Communicate and coordinate response.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on precipitation and soil moisture conditions.

Drought Monitoring & Reporting Actions

The ADRMP includes ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting on soil moisture conditions, precipitation amounts and patterns, and temperature regimes in the agricultural areas of Alberta.

Producers:

- Monitor local weather and soil data.
- Implement preparedness plans as indicated.

Government:

- Develop quality controlled, accessible weather and soil data.
- Provide comprehensive drought reports for Alberta agricultural regions to help define the severity and extent of drought conditions.
- Provide soil moisture and precipitation data to facilitate timely payments under AFSC's weather based AgriInsurance products.
- Maintain the AgroClimatic Information Service (ACIS) to help with short and long-term planning and decision-making.
- Provide near real-time reports of water supply conditions through Alberta Environment's website. (www.environment.alberta.ca).

Drought Response Actions

The Plan recognizes that drought response involves taking appropriate action during and immediately following a drought to reduce drought impacts on producers.

Producers:

- Livestock owners may access the hay listing for available feed (www.agric.gov.ab.ca).
- Determine if the Water Pumping Program will assist to replenish dugout levels.

Government:

- Provide information on available programs, including AgriInsurance and AgriStability.
- Provide producers with contact information for farm crisis lines and financial counseling agencies.
- Municipalities manage community water supplies.
- Monitor moisture levels to determine if recommendation for designated tax deferral is indicated.
- Analyze conditions to determine if recommendation of AgriRecovery program is indicated.

Drought Management Actions

The Agriculture Drought Risk Management Plan (ADRMP) is supported by three approaches that are linked to the three levels of moisture conditions:

- Drought preparedness
- Drought monitoring and reporting
- Drought response

Moisture Condition Levels

- Normal or near normal moisture conditions
- Exceptional or notable moisture conditions
- Extreme moisture conditions

More Information

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Policy, Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, (780) 422-9167; toll-free at 310-0000.

Ropin' the Web: www.agic.gov.ab.ca

Agriculture Drought Risk Management Plan (ADRMP) provides risk management options to prepare for drought, monitor and report conditions, and to respond to drought.

ADRMP activities are coordinated through the partnership of the multi-agency Alberta Drought Advisory Group (DAG) including:

- Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) www.agric.gov.ab.ca
- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMD&C) www.aamdc.com
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) www.afsc.ca
- Agri-Environmental Services Branch (AESB) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) www.agr.gc.ca/pfra
- Environment (ENV) www.environment.alberta.ca
- Agricultural producer representation

Responsibilities under the ADRMP:

Communicate the drought management actions and drought preparedness information and reports.

Encourage producers to prepare for dry conditions and to utilize existing risk management tools from AFSC.

Recommend drought response actions to the appropriate Minister.

Evaluate and update the ADRMP annually.

Alberta's Agriculture Drought Risk Management Plan (ADRMP)

