

# Camelid care after floods



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## Immediate assessment post-flood

- Ensure security of boundary fencing.
- Examine all livestock individually.
- Euthanise impacted livestock that have little/no chance of survival if you are confident you can perform the task humanely & safely. Otherwise, contact your local veterinarian &/or state Department of Agriculture for assistance.
- Dispose of carcasses in a timely manner as delay poses a risk to human & livestock health, & the environment. Your local council will co-ordinate clean-up activities, including disposal of livestock, native & feral animals. (Carcass disposal options normally include knackery, burning & burial.)

## Managing surviving livestock health

- **Feet:** Move livestock from muddy areas. Check pads for evidence of wounds/pad rot. Clean affected feet in dilute chlorhexidine & dry feet out.
- **Parasites:**
  - **Flystrike:** Keep an eye on any wounds & feet/breech/withers/rump for stained/wet/smelly wool/maggots as more likely after prolonged wetting. Clip affected area, bathe to remove maggots.
  - **Biting insects** may cause insect worry/skin irritation. Consider topical spinosad or permethrin at sheep label doses.
  - **Worms:** Perform faecal egg counts every 4 weeks during recovery to monitor worm burdens as stressed stock more prone to infestation & worm larvae survive longer on pastures in moist conditions.
- **Bacterial diseases** more likely as bacteria proliferate in wet, dirty conditions:
  - More susceptible to pneumonia & diarrhoea after prolonged exposure to rain.
  - Mastitis if lactating females with udder abrasions/grazing tall wet pasture/fly wave.
- **Obtain veterinary assistance** to treat affected stock as necessary or if you notice unusual symptoms in your animals.

## Feeding livestock

- Assess pastures for damage & source alternative good quality feed as necessary.
- Signs of water-damaged feed include evidence of black colour/slime/mould/odour. Some portions of haystacks/silage may be salvageable but remove suspect feed as ingestion/inhalation of mould is hazardous.

- Observe stock are drinking water adequately as livestock may refuse to drink flood water.
- Body condition score regularly to monitor nutrition.
- Weed emergence after inundation common. Toxic weeds include heliotrope, ragwort, Paterson's curse, crotalaria, caltrop, various pasture species under certain conditions (e.g. button grass, sorghum), depending on district.
- Agistment may be a cheap solution until fences secured & pastures recovered.

## Forward planning

- If you live in a flood-prone area, plan for the next extreme weather event by identifying the highest ground on your property, & design a strategy to ensure animals can be mustered, segregated as necessary, fed, watered & sheltered for a few days.
- Ensure all livestock ear tagged with Property Identification Code (PIC) for proof of identity.
- Construct/renovate laneways for low stress mustering.
- Invest in undercover feed storage on high ground & weatherproof hay racks.
- Plan for loss of electricity, lack of safe water.
- If the Bureau of Meteorology issues a flood weather warning for your district:
  - Move stock to elevated area in a timely manner.
  - Stockpile feed & supplies to last you & your animals 3 days.
  - Plan evacuation route.
- New farm in flood-prone district?
  - Place shed/s & handling facilities on most elevated part of farm with capacity to contain & feed all livestock in the event of a flood.

NO PRODUCTS ARE REGISTERED FOR USE IN CAMELIDS. *DO NOT* USE ANY PRODUCT IN CAMELIDS THAT IS NOT REGISTERED FOR USE IN FOOD PRODUCING ANIMALS.

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