

2024 QUICK GUIDE TO DROUGHT RESOURCES

Prolonged periods of dry weather can cause crop damage and other issues due to water supply shortages. The following information resources can help producers prepare for, and adapt to, drought conditions.

DROUGHT IN AGRICULTURE WEBPAGE

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food's [Drought in Agriculture](#) webpage is your gateway to B.C.'s agricultural water resources. It includes water management factsheets and videos, links to tools and financial supports, a list of upcoming drought and water management workshops, and other information to help producers make water-wise management decisions for their farms. Key drought-related information on this webpage includes:

- [Key Drought Management Tips](#)
- [Forage Crops and Irrigation Management in Drought Conditions](#)
- [Irrigation Decisions with Limited Water](#)
- [B.C. Livestock Watering Handbook](#)
- [Farm Water Fix video series](#)

Scan the QR code or type the link into your browser to navigate to the webpage



gov.bc.ca/AgDrought

ONLINE TOOLS

[Agricultural Irrigation Scheduling Calculator](#)

Estimate an irrigation schedule for your farm to increase water use efficiency and prepare for drought. This tool uses real-time weather data from [Farmwest.com](#) and weather forecast data.

[B.C. Agriculture Water Calculator](#)

Estimate irrigation and livestock water requirements based on farm location, crop/livestock type, and irrigation system type.

[B.C. Irrigation Water Use Calculator](#)

Track annual irrigation water use without the need to purchase a flow measuring device.



ag-calc.irrigationbc.com



bcwatercalculator.ca

FUNDING PROGRAMS - WATER

The [Beneficial Management Practices \(BMP\)](#) program provides funding for eligible farm businesses to purchase equipment (e.g., irrigation systems, weather stations), develop water storage systems, and fund assessments, plans, and designs. Applicants must first complete an [Environmental Farm Plan \(EFP\)](#), a free, confidential, and voluntary assessment identifying opportunities to adapt and respond to environmental and climate challenges.

The [Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program \(AWP\)](#) provides cost-share funding for water infrastructure investments to producers, conservation groups, water purveyors, and Indigenous communities.

These programs are delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF). Visit www.iafbc.ca for eligible projects and application intake windows.

More funding opportunities may be available! Visit the Agriculture and Seafood Programs webpage:



<https://bit.ly/BCAgriculture-Programs>

EXTREME WEATHER PREPAREDNESS FOR AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The [Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture \(EWP\) Program](#) supports producers in conducting risk assessments and upgrading infrastructure. The program supports farm-level climate resilience to extreme weather events including preparing for extreme heat, such as:

- Improved barn cooling systems
- Extreme heat protection for horticulture crops and outdoor livestock (shade trees and infrastructure)
- Enhanced livestock watering to mitigate heat stress

This program is delivered by Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF). Visit www.iafbc.ca for eligible projects and application intake windows.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Business Risk Management Branch administers a suite of insurance and income stability programs that are designed to work together to enable B.C.'s agricultural producers to manage business risks that are beyond their control (production losses, severe market volatility, extreme weather events or disasters). For example:

- [Production Insurance \(crop insurance\)](#): Affordable insurance program that supports agricultural producers to manage the risk of crop losses caused by weather perils.
- [AgriStability](#): Helps stabilize farm income by managing the risk of large income declines.



For more programs:
<http://bit.ly/BCAgriculture-BusinessRiskManagement>

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM

The [Climate Change Adaptation Program](#) developed several resources to support producers in understanding their water use and increasing irrigation efficiencies. Resources consist of irrigation workshops (including webinar recordings) and regional adaptation strategies; visit www.bcclimatechangeadaptation.ca.

B.C. DROUGHT INFORMATION FROM OTHER MINISTRIES

Provincial drought levels are set by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and posted on the [B.C. Drought Information Portal](#), which is updated regularly during the drought season. For more information on provincial drought preparation and response, visit gov.bc.ca/drought.



droughtportal.gov.bc.ca

Access data on local water conditions through the [Real-time Water Data Tool](#), the province's primary repository of continuous surface, groundwater and snow data from monitoring stations across the province.



https://bit.ly/BC_RealTimeWaterData

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