

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

Resources available through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's [Drought in Agriculture](#) webpage include key factsheets to help producers make the most efficient use of limited irrigation water supply:

- [Key Drought Management Tips](#)
- [Irrigation Decisions with Limited Water](#)
- [Forage Crops and Irrigation Management in Drought Conditions](#)
- [Irrigated Alfalfa Management under Drought Conditions](#)
- [B.C. Livestock Watering Handbook](#)



<http://bit.ly/BCDrought-Agriculture>

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

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.



https://bit.ly/BC_AgIrrigationSchedulingCalculator

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

Track annual irrigation water use without the need to purchase a flow measuring device. This tool is useful to help plan for the best use of your irrigation water supply.



https://bit.ly/BC_AgIrrigationWaterUseCalculator

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

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



https://bit.ly/BC_AgWaterCalculator

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 capture and storage systems, and fund assessments, plans, and technical designs. Applicants must first complete an [Environmental Farm Plan \(EFP\)](#), a free, confidential, and voluntary assessment that identifies opportunities to adapt and respond to environmental and climate challenges.

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

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

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. Regional information for watersheds in the West Coast, South Coast, Thompson Okanagan, and Kootenay Boundary regions can be found on the "**Stream Watch**" tabs.

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/BCDrought Portal](https://bit.ly/BCDroughtPortal)



[https://bit.ly/BC_Real TimeWaterData](https://bit.ly/BC_RealTimeWaterData)

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