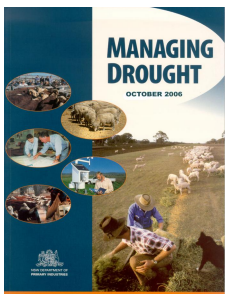


## “Your Questions Answered” STOCK MANAGEMENT IN DROUGHT

Managing, maintaining or finishing stock under the current conditions is obviously a huge juggling act. Limited high protein feed, roughage and stock water require very specific management strategies. What stock should you sell? What stock should you keep? And, what, how and when should you feed them?

There is a huge amount of information out there designed to assist you with this decision making but where is it and how do you access it?



The NSW Department of Primary Industries has recently updated and launched their “2006 Managing Drought” book. This is a highly informative publication and available **FREE** to all producers.

The book outlines strategies for all aspects of the property and business. Specific to livestock, it covers stock feeding, water requirements and overall management.

### Feeding Stock

The book covers a huge amount of information dealing with sheep and cattle separately. It talks about the different types of feeding (supplementary vs. full hand feeding), stock management, ration composition, grain options, feed digestibility, alternative feed options and animal behaviour for each class of stock.

It also outlines strategies required when introducing hand feeding and goes into broader stock and drought management strategies including de-stocking, culling, pregnancy testing and weaning.

### Stock Water Requirements

The amount and quality of water required varies greatly between species and classes of livestock, and in response to the environment in which the stock are running.

The book goes into detail about how water quality can be jeopardised by factors such as salinity, acidity, toxic elements, algae, temperature or pasture composition. It outlines in simple tables daily stock

water requirements and management strategies around watering points and radiuses.

More detailed information is available in the new PrimeFact entitled **Stock water – a limited resource** (Primefact 269).

### Further Resources

In addition to the Managing Drought book the NSW DPI has an enormous amount of free information available on their website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au). There is a specific section dedicated to drought with information relevant to every farmer and literally hundreds of fact sheets that can be downloaded.

*If you have limited or no internet access I am available to source and send information out to you or further research specific topics at your request.*

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE BOOK OR ANY OF THE FACT SHEETS LISTED PLEASE CONTACT ME DIRECTLY.**

Some relevant fact sheets that I have found include:

- **Alternative roughage feeds** (Primefact 270)
- **Fortified molasses mixes for cattle** (Primefact 271)
- **Making your own protein blocks for cattle** (Primefact 273)
- **Buying stock feeds – minimising chemical residue risks** (Agnote DAI-265)
- **Dangers of feeding waste materials to livestock** (Agnote DAI-181)
- **Feeding calves in drought** (Agnote DAI-15)
- **Grain poisoning of cattle & sheep** (Agfact AO.9.53)

In addition, the **NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA)** has information on their website [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au) on payment relief measures available and exceptional circumstances relief. They can be contacted on toll free number **1800 678 593**.

Finally, for further assistance and information farmers can call the **Drought Hotline on 1800 814 647** or the Parkes district Drought Support Worker, Jan Bruce on 6862 1000.

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