

SPRING READINESS CHECKLIST

Work through this checklist before the season gets busy. Cross out any items that don't apply to your operation and tick each relevant item once completed.

Farm Risk Assessment

- ☐ I have identified the paddocks that typically dry out first.
- ☐ I have identified paddocks prone to waterlogging after heavy rainfall.
- ☐ I know which areas of the farm are most vulnerable to moisture stress.
- ☐ I have reviewed how my farm performed during previous dry seasons.
- ☐ I have identified the key risks most likely to affect my farm this spring and summer.

My biggest seasonal risks are:

Water Planning

- ☐ I have checked irrigation systems and equipment.
- ☐ I have reviewed water storage levels.
- ☐ I have identified paddocks that require irrigation first during dry conditions.
- ☐ I have checked stock water systems and infrastructure.
- ☐ I understand the current moisture status of key paddocks.

Areas most at risk of moisture stress:

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Fertiliser Planning

- ☐ I have reviewed planned fertiliser applications.
- ☐ I have identified priority paddocks.
- ☐ I have considered how dry conditions could affect pasture response.
- ☐ I have considered how prolonged wet conditions could affect nutrient use efficiency.
- ☐ I have reviewed application timing against expected weather conditions.

Potential fertiliser adjustments if conditions change:

Feed Planning

- ☐ I have reviewed my feed budget.
- ☐ I have realistic pasture growth assumptions for the coming season.
- ☐ I know how many weeks of feed reserves I currently have.
- ☐ I have identified potential supplementary feed suppliers if required.
- ☐ I have determined when I would need to purchase additional feed.

My trigger point for reviewing feed supplies is:

Monitoring & Early Warning Signs

- ☐ I know what indicators I will monitor throughout the season.
- ☐ I have a process for tracking rainfall.
- ☐ I have a process for monitoring soil moisture.
- ☐ I have a process for monitoring pasture growth.
- ☐ I know how frequently I will review conditions.

I will review conditions every:

- ☐ Day ☐ Week ☐ Fortnight ☐ Month

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Contingency Planning

- ☐ I have documented actions for a developing dry period.
- ☐ I have documented actions for a prolonged wet period.
- ☐ I have identified key decision points for feed management.
- ☐ I have identified key decision points for irrigation management.
- ☐ Staff and key advisers know the contingency plan.

Actions I will take if conditions deteriorate:

Decision-Making Confidence Check

Can you answer these questions today?

- ☐ Which paddocks currently have the most available moisture?
- ☐ Which paddocks are under the most stress?
- ☐ How much soil moisture has changed in the past month?
- ☐ Where should irrigation be prioritised?
- ☐ Are current conditions supporting planned fertiliser applications?
- ☐ Is pasture growth tracking as expected?

If you can't confidently answer several of these questions, you may be relying on assumptions rather than current farm conditions.

Watermetrics Tip

The earlier you spot a trend, the more options you have.

Monitoring soil moisture and paddock conditions throughout spring can help you make more informed decisions about irrigation, feed, fertiliser, and grazing management before small issues become costly problems.



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