

RAIN AND FLOODING



WHAT TO DO WHEN FLOODING IS FORECAST

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the river banks or dams, water overflows and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures

- Construct proper drainage systems. Shallow drains must be cleaned constantly to ensure proper water irrigation and prevent siltation.
- Ensure mechanical land treatment of slopes, i.e. contour ploughing or terracing, to reduce the runoff coefficient and to slow flow downhill.
- Construct small water and sediment holding areas or floodways (i.e. man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- Insure crops/livestock against financial loss due to rain and flood damage.

Avoid

- Cutting grass in the rainy season (nutrient depletion) and applying fungicides and pesticides (plants and animals).
- Applying fertiliser (burning of plants). (Nitrogen loss is higher during heavy rain.)
- Dumping fertiliser in one spot. It can cause the roots below the fertiliser to burn and die.
- Irrigation (waterlogging can occur, leading to nutrient depletion).

Remember to

- Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
- Provide shelter for animals (young ones die easily) and move animals to a safe place.
- Leave cultivated areas coarse.

Concerns and recommendations

- High moisture content and high temperatures may trigger pests and diseases after rain has fallen.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.

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Warning - when crossing a river after heavy rainfall:

- Be extra cautious whilst rainy conditions persist.
- Before crossing a river, check if the water level is rising, especially if it continues to rain.
- Note that there could be a storm further upstream and floodwaters could occur at any stage.
- If in doubt rather wait until conditions have improved before attempting to cross.

For more information or assistance, contact:

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Disaster Management Centre Western Cape

(assist with major disasters and link up various stakeholders in the event of a disaster):

Cape Winelands Disaster Management Centre

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Central Karoo Disaster Management Centre

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Garden Route Disaster Management Centre

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Overberg Disaster Management Centre

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West Coast Disaster Management Centre

Head of the Centre: Franquin Pietersen
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Alternatively, contact your district Sustainable Resource Use and Management (SRUM), Agricultural Producer Support and Development (APSD) or State Veterinary Office:

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE AND MANAGEMENT (SRUM): LandCare District Managers

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Cape Winelands:

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Garden Route/Eden:

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT (APSD)

West Coast:

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Overberg:

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Garden Route:

Clyde Lamberts
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Cape Metropole:

Ayanda Obose
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RAIN AND FLOODING

VETERINARY SERVICES

State Veterinarian: George

044-803-3771/0

Ms Shirelle Strydom (Admin Clerk)

Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg

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State Veterinarian: Boland

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Ms Renee Jack (Admin Clerk)

Dr Vivien Malan

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State Veterinarian: Swellendam

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Mr Bidwell Gelwana (Admin Clerk)

Dr Christi Kloppers

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State Veterinarian: Vredendal

027-201-3514/0

Ms Deidre Daniels (Admin Clerk)

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Ms Jeoninse Noni (Admin Clerk)

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State Veterinarian: Worcester

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