



Theme F: Agriculture

In Alberta, agriculture plays a critical part of our economy and as seen in the past, can be devastated by multi-year droughts.

Strategies

Ensure Stakeholders Know Where to Get Resources

- Before Drought
- Warning Signs
- During Drought
- After Drought

Encourage Best Practices for Drought Preparedness

- Before Drought
- Warning Signs
- During Drought
- After Drought

Best Practice Examples

- Drought response planning, including trigger levels and water use reduction measures
- Partner with local and regional entities to leverage funds
- Explore innovative approaches for water supply options
- Know the tools and resources for producers & their families to support mental health
- Understand communication venues and media
- Keep communication messages clear, simple, and consistent
- Develop a marketing plan and a business plan
- Know the emergency water supplies in your local area
- Implement water conservation and curtailment measures

Key Supporting Tools

- Agriculture Drought and Excess Moisture Risk Management Plan for Alberta
- Canadian Drought Monitor
- Grasshopper Forecast
- Agricultural Moisture Situation Updates
- Drought Proofing Farm Water Supplies



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Examples

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration was a federal initiative headquartered in Saskatchewan that was created in response to the extreme drought in the 1930s and was in operation for nearly 80 years. The agency was involved in irrigation projects and programs to help build on-farm dugouts as a water source for livestock. It also ran large-scale tree-planting projects to protect soil from wind erosion.¹ The agency was dissolved in 2009 when its programs were merged with the Agri-Environment Services branch.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's "*Drought Proofing Farm Water Supplies*" document outlines 5 steps to help farmers identify their water supply, system requirements, and problems, including both short- and long-term solutions. For example, if runoff volumes to the farm are insufficient resulting in low water supply volumes, as a temporary solution, farmers can truck in water. As a long-term solution, farmers may enhance the existing runoff area with snow fences or shelterbelts.

1 <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/prairie-farm-rehabilitation-administration>