



Reduce your risks

With some planning and financial outlay, you can reduce much of the financial loss and stress on you, your family and your stock during an emergency.

- Understand the hazards you may face.
- Consider an alternate power supply or, at the very least, an input box for a generator if one becomes available.
- Ensure your staff know what to do during an emergency.
- Back up your computer records and store them off site.
- Ensure that you and your staff have emergency supplies for at least three days.
- Ensure you have stock supplies for at least five days.
- Vaccinate your stock against common ailments.
- Discuss with your neighbours how you could help one another out during emergencies.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure you have the cover you need.

Don't wait until the next event to think about what you need to do. It's no use thinking "It won't happen to me."

Act now to make your business more resilient

It's as simple as ABC

Farming is a job for planners. When running a farm, what you do today will often affect your future production and profitability. So it's important to consider all of the what-ifs to reduce stress during a crisis or emergency situation.

John Fischer, an Auroa dairy farmer, suffered power outages in August and December 2011. Another outage in January 2012 lasted 33 hours. John had to deal with stressed cows and vet bills, and had to discard milk. There were further losses from depressed milk production for around a week. That was the last straw.

John decided to protect his business from losses caused by power outages. He bought a tractor generator and fitted input boxes to his two dairy sheds so he can switch to generator power. John now rests assured that his business won't suffer further losses from power outages.

John's investment in being prepared was tested during a severe storm in March 2012. With a generator and input boxes to his dairy sheds, John carried on milking during the power outage. This saved his business from losses that could have been as much as in January 2012.



John believes that power outages with lengthy restoration times will become more common. But he's confident that his farm won't be affected!

Power outages, road closures, snow storms and tornadoes are only a few of the events that could severely disrupt your farming business. How would you cope without power for five days or roads closed by snow or a tornado destroying part of your chicken sheds?

In recent years, major emergencies have cut power to thousands of residents in rural Taranaki, for up to two weeks in some cases.

During March 2012 a weather bomb caused widespread disruption across Taranaki. Many farms, particularly in south Taranaki, suffered severe damage to crops and plantations. Downed power lines caused extensive power outages for several days - 584 dairy owner-operators, 474 sharemilkers and 880 sheep and beef farmers were affected by the storm.



Keiran and Marie Dwyer and their son Tim farm near Patea. They were without mains power for four days. But they were prepared for the storm event and could carry on milking without any major disruption.

Concern about the effect power outages could have on their farms had prompted them and their neighbours to buy a generator some time ago.

During the emergency, they used the jointly owned generator on their farm and shared it so other farmers could continue milking.

The Dwyers say they used their generator for milking and water supply, refuelled it and then transported it by tractor to the next farm.

"It pays to prepare. It's very important to ensure that you have specific power points fitted for a generator. Then it can simply be plugged in and everything switched to generator power when required."

Is your business prepared to survive for at least 5 days in an emergency?

Disasters can cause widespread damage to roads, telephones, power, buildings and property.



You may need to be self-reliant for some time after a major emergency.

- Can you operate your milking shed during a power cut?
- How would you feed your stock if an unexpected snowfall blanketed your pasture for a week?
- Could you manage your home and business if the road to your property was closed for five days?
- Do you need electricity to pump water to your paddocks, home and sheds? How would you cope without power for five days?

Business continuity is about identifying the essential parts of your business that you can't do without and planning how to maintain them if an emergency occurs.

Sponsored by



www.fedfarm.org.nz



www.dairynz.co.nz

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



www.mpi.govt.nz



www.rural-support.org.nz

For further technical information and business continuity planning information go to www.trc.govt.nz/civil-defence/



Produced by the Taranaki Rural Advisory Group to the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Ph:06 758 1110 or 0800 900 049

Agricultural Business Continuity

Is your business prepared for an emergency?

