In light of the seasonal climate watch as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk, optimize soil water availability and to manage the renewable resources (rain water and grazing) to uphold sound farming objectives. Long-term mitigation strategies should be considered by implementing techniques to enhance in-field water harvesting by reducing run-off and improving infiltration. Reduced tillage methods are very important in this regard, as is basin tillage, to capture rainwater in the drier areas. The provinces should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local media and farmers’ days to disseminate the information. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory.

I. CURRENT CONDITIONS

![Figure 1: Percentage of Normal Rainfall for July 2022](image)

![Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Rainfall for August 2022](image)

![Figure 3: Percentage of Normal Rainfall for 01 - 10 September 2022](image)

![Figure 4: Percentage of Normal Rainfall for season July 2022 - August 2022](image)
During July, above normal rainfall was received over some central and north-eastern parts of the country (Figure 1). The remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall. Above normal rainfall was scattered across the country in August especially in the coastal provinces (Figure 2). The remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall. For the first ten days of September above normal rainfall was received over the south-western parts of the country but below-normal elsewhere (Figure 3). For the season July to August above normal rainfall was received along the coast and adjacent interiors and over some areas in the interior of the country (Figure 4). Remaining regions received below normal rainfall.

NDVI map: 20 July – 05 August 2022 compared to the long-term mean

The 16-day NDVI difference map compared to the long-term mean, shows that most parts of the country continue to experience normal to above-normal vegetation activity while below-normal activity prevails in the far western parts of the country.

VCI map: 20 July – 05 August 2022 compared to the long-term mean

Compared to the long term mean, the 16-day VCI map shows that some parts of the Cape provinces continue to experience poor vegetation conditions. Above normal vegetation conditions are visible in other regions of the country.

(The VCI is a better indicator of water stress than the NDVI).
II. CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCES DURING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Eastern Cape
Below normal rainfall was received mainly in the Sarah Baartman, Chris Hani and Joe Gqabi districts but above-normal in other areas. Farmers have finalized harvesting in August and most of dryland farming areas reported reasonable to good cropping conditions. However, the excessive rains especially in areas along the coast resulted to degradation of the quality of maize. In Ndlambe municipality chicory crop is performing well while the Blue Crane Route reported good harvest of lemon but prices dropped due to over-supply. Sarah Baartman at Blue Crane Route municipality reported good conditions of wheat and oats. In Joe Gqabi district and Ndlambe local municipality pastures are in good condition. Livestock is in reasonable to good condition due to good grazing but reasonable to poor towards Sarah Baartman and Chris Hani districts. Municipalities reported as critical in terms of irrigation dam water levels are Koukamma, Kouga and Nelson Mandela Metro. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (72% in 2022; 52% in 2021).

Free State
Late frost has been reported in many areas. The veld has started to regrow as spring has set in due to rainfall received during mid-spring. However, supplementary feeding is still recommended especially for the breeding, lactating and pregnant livestock. Spring pastures are doing well especially those that are under irrigation. Harvesting of maize, field beans and sunflower has been completed for the 2021/22 harvesting season. Brown locust infestation has been reported in some parts. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (96% in 2022; 90% in 2021).

Gauteng
Below-normal rainfall was received. The veld is in reasonable to poor condition and veld fires were experienced in some areas. Livestock is in reasonable condition. Foot and mouth disease was reported in Randfontein and Wallmansthal; highly pathogenic avian influenza in Ekurhuleni; rabies in the Kromdraai area; African horse sickness and lumpy skin disease across the province. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (97% in 2022; 93% in 2021).

KwaZulu-Natal
Above-normal rainfall was received over most parts. Harvesting was delayed due to accessibility of the maize lands after the April and late May rains but has been completed. Livestock condition remains good. Fair to good veld and vegetation conditions continued across the province. There has been restriction of movement on cattle due to numerous foot and mouth disease outbreaks. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (86% in 2022; 66% in 2021).

Limpopo
The grazing condition has improved especially in communal areas. The conditions of livestock are currently ranging from fair to good in communal areas, good and exceptionally good in commercial farming and in areas where grazing has improved. Bush encroachment is still a challenge in many communal grazing lands; however, the department is working towards rectifying the situation. To date 4000 ha of land is cleared through the Land care programme. Farmers are continuously advised to reduce stock to avoid overstocking. Most farmers under irrigation planted inter-seasonal crops such as spinach, sweet potato, beetroot and green pepper. Crops in dry land are ready for market, while late winter crops such as wheat are still in the fields. Incidences reported was a case of foot and mouth diseases in Vhembe, tomato leaf minor in Nwanedi, Bochum und Mohodi; oriental
fruit fly affecting citrus farmers and fall armyworm have been reported in all districts. The average level of major dams is at 85% in 2022, as compared to 80% of 2021 during the same period.

Mpumalanga
The veld is in reasonable condition but poor in the lowveld, whereas livestock condition is reasonable to poor. Planted vegetable crops in the Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande districts are in good condition while various types of vegetable are at harvesting stage in most parts of the province. African swine fever was reported. The average storage of dams has increased to 92% 2022 compared to 77% in 2021 during the same period.

Northern Cape
The winter rainfall areas received some rain during winter. Most parts continued to experience improved vegetation conditions, except for the far western and northern parts, and a few areas in the central region, which are still experiencing drought. The conditions of livestock and veld are fair to good. Fire activity was higher in most parts as compared to the long-term average. Livestock mortality and pasture damaged due to veld fires were reported in some areas. The average level of major dams has decreased as compared to the previous year (92% in 2022; 93% in 2021).

North West
Winter crops have been planted on a large scale due to sufficient sub surface water and dam levels. Some dry land summer crop producers also planted wheat on saturated water table soils in order to reduce saturation levels before the coming summer season. The veld and livestock are in reasonable to poor condition. Foot and mouth disease has been reported. The average level of major dams is nearly similar to the previous year during the same period (75% in 2022; 74% in 2021).

Western Cape
Rainfall in August was normal to below-normal. Very dry conditions occurred over most parts of the winter rainfall area from June to mid-August. Some areas received good rain from mid-August. Light snow fell on the Matroos and Groot Winterhoek mountain peaks in mid-August. The rain received from mid-August had a positive impact on the development of grain in the Swartland. Wheat and canola conditions can be considered normal to good. Most areas in the eastern Rûens production area received less than average rainfall to well below the long term average. The yield expectation of all the crops varied between well below average to average at best. The veld is in reasonable to good condition but poor in the western Central Karoo and West Coast district. The livestock condition is good. Rabies was diagnosed in a bat-eared fox near Riviersonderend. A rise in avian influenza infections in ostriches has been identified and investigations are still underway. The average level of dams is at 74% in 2022 as compared to 82% of 2021.

Information on level of dams is obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation
Dam levels as at 2022/09/26

III. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Livestock domestic markets
According to ABSA, Class A carcass prices have increased by 4.4% over the past month, whilst class C prices increased by 5.1% for the corresponding period. During the week ending 09 September, Class C prices experienced a spike. There has been a substantial drop in slaughter and feeder lamb prices over the past month. This is the result of constrained consumer income,
channelling the demand to more affordable sources of protein. Local pork prices have increased by almost 4% compared to mid-August. Local poultry prices traded sideways holding steady at high price levels. Whole bird prices increased by 2.3% over the past month whilst IQF prices increased by 1.0% underpinned by weakening exchange rates and higher global prices demand for more affordable sources of meat protein.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer prices for selected livestock commodities</th>
<th>Beef</th>
<th>Mutton</th>
<th>Pork</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
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<tr>
<td>Open market: Class A / Porker / Fresh whole birds (R/kg)</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>90.37</td>
<td>26.68</td>
<td>32.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds (R/kg)</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>75.68</td>
<td>27.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract: A2/A3* / IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)</td>
<td>62.30</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>30.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Import parity price (R/kg)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)</td>
<td>37.80</td>
<td>45.33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ABSA: 2022/09/22**

**Major grain commodities**

Local maize prices increased by 10% month on month for both yellow and white maize on the back of the increasing global corn prices as well as the weakening of the rand. Wheat prices traded sideways and increased by 2% on September 12 following global wheat increases. Soybean prices are volatile following the global price trend. The SAFEX soybean price traded sideways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Future Prices (2022/09/27) R/ton</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Aug-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White maize</td>
<td>4 779.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow maize</td>
<td>4 682.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>7 006.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>9 708.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>9 247.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SAGIS: 2022/09/29**

**IV. SADC REGION**

The September Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that food security throughout much of the region is expected to deteriorate in the coming months as households’ own-produced food stocks decline, and an increasing number of households are market reliant with lower-than-normal purchasing power. Southern Madagascar is expected to face the most severe outcomes in the region, with Emergency (IPC Phase 4) expected in late 2022 and into early 2023.
due to limited ability for households to access food and limited coping capacity due to the erosion of livelihoods from multiple droughts. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely starting in October across areas of southern Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as areas of Angola, and much of Zimbabwe, due to compounding impacts of poor 2021/22 rainfall, tropical cyclones, and domestic economic declines. Furthermore, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in conflict-affected areas of northern Mozambique and eastern DRC.

FEWS-Net further reported that staple food prices remain high and generally increasing across several FEWS NET monitored markets in Southern Africa. The high and rising prices are due to high market demand, lower than average market supply, and high global food and fuel prices. Inflation remains elevated in Zimbabwe and Malawi due to generally poor macroeconomic conditions. In Zimbabwe, July maize prices are about 400 percent above the same time last year. Maize grain prices in Malawi and rice and cassava prices in Madagascar are over 200 percent higher than the five-year average. Conflict continues to disrupt livelihood activities and drive displacement in eastern DRC and Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique. Based on OCHA reports, nearly 900,000 people have been displaced in areas of North and South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika, and Kasai since the start of 2022. In the Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique, IOM estimates that around 51,000 people were reported to be on the move between June and August due to conflict. Across both countries, conflict is disrupting agricultural and income-earning activities.

In addition, FEWS-Net indicated that based on international climate forecasts, La Niña conditions are expected to persist into early 2023, with La Niña conditions associated with favorable rainfall in most of Southern Africa. Most areas, including Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Malawi, have increased chances of receiving average to above average rainfall through January. This raises good production prospects for the upcoming 2022/23 agricultural season. Although, in southern Madagascar, extreme northern parts of Mozambique and Malawi, and southwestern parts of Angola, there are increased chances of below-average rainfall, which may cause a late start of the season and could potentially have implications on the planting and the agricultural season.

[The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardized tools that aims at providing a "common currency" for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity.]

Source: [http://www.fews.net/southern-africa](http://www.fews.net/southern-africa)

**Summary of the reports**
The veld and livestock conditions are fair in most provinces. Harvesting of winter crops has been completed in some parts. Foot and mouth disease continued to be reported with restriction of cattle movement in some areas maintained. Brown locust outbreaks have in reported in Free State. Incidents of rabies and avian influenza have been reported in the Western Cape and Gauteng; African swine fever in Mpumalanga; tomato leaf minor in Limpopo; African horse sickness and lumpy skin disease in Gauteng. Veld fires have been reported in several provinces. The average level of major dams has increased in most parts.
V. MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Seasonal Climate Watch: October 2022 to February 2023

State of Climate Drivers
The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña state, and forecasts indicate that it will likely remain in this state during the remainder of 2022 and early 2023. The presence of a La Niña event usually has its strongest impact on rainfall during the mid-summer months.

Figure 1 – Rainfall

The multi-model rainfall forecast indicates above-normal rainfall for most parts of the country for all predicted seasons.
Figure 2 – Minimum and Maximum temperatures
Minimum temperatures are still expected to be above normal countrywide, however, maximum temperatures are expected to be below normal over large parts of the country during early- (Nov-Dec-Jan) and mid-summer (Dec-Jan-Feb).

In summary, above-normal rainfall is anticipated during spring and summer. Minimum temperatures are expected to be above-normal while maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal over most parts during early and mid-summer. Farmers are encouraged to continually check updates i.e. seasonal forecasts and utilize 7-day weather forecasts for short term planning.

With the above forecast in mind, the following strategies are recommended:

VI. **SUGGESTED STRATEGIES**

A. **Rain-fed crop production**

**Soil choice:**
- Choose suitable soil type.
  - Suitable soil and land use management practices that would control wind and water erosion in cultivated lands are suggested.
- Roughen the soil surface to enhance rain water penetration and reduce runoff.
- Minimise compaction by reducing the passing of heavy machinery in the field.

**Land preparation:**
- Avoid where possible soils with pronounced plough pans.
- For sequestration of atmospheric carbon in the soil, for increased biological activity, and to better conservation of water, zero or minimum tillage is advised where possible.
- Do not expand land under crop production unnecessarily.
- Prioritise fallow land.

**Crop choice and planting:**
- Choose short season, locally adapted cultivars as a precautionary measure.
- Provide flexibility and diversification.
- Stick to normal planting dates if appropriate and follow the weather and climate forecast regularly.
- Consider staggered planting-spreading over weeks.
- Do not experiment with new and unknown cultivars and also avoid unnecessary capital investments.
- Always practice crop rotation.
- Consider intercropping for improved soil structure and pest/diseases control.
- Planting in a controlled environment (e.g. green house) is advisable where possible.

**Crop management:**
- Adjust planting density accordingly.
- Consider mulching to minimise evaporation.
- Control weeds regularly.
- Consider a conservative fertilizing strategy during dry conditions.
- Consider organic fertilization.
- Scout for pests and diseases regularly and control where necessary.
• Wheat: The strategy proposed is to scout the plants regularly, correctly identify any pests or diseases and make informed decisions regarding reaction.

B. Irrigation farming

• Remove all weeds containing seeds, but keep other vegetative rests on the land because that will reduce evaporation.
• Check and repair all tools and machinery especially where there are water leaks.
• Be aware of the state of regional water resources and whether it will be adequate for irrigation.
• Timing of irrigation - rather late afternoon or early evening to reduce evaporation.
• Manage irrigation so that the plant receives water only when needed.
• Consider using drip irrigation as it saves water by allowing it to drip slowly straight to the roots.
• Avoid over irrigation because that can create problems e.g. water logging and diseases.
• Adhere to water restrictions when issued.

C. Domestic and home garden water use

• Conserve existing water supplies.
• Eradicate water weeds.
• Limit water waste and losses.
• Repair leaking pipes.
• Re-use water and retain high quality.
• Harvest water during rainy days.

D. Stock farming

• Keep stocking rates conservative and even lower to protect grazing.
• Never exceed carrying capacity of plant associations.
• Provide lots of drinking points where possible.
• Provide additional fodder and enhance nutritional value of dry grazing/feed with licks:
  - Phosphorous deficiency is a major problem.
  - Licks should (in most cases) provide:
    - Phosphorous.
    - Urea (to help with the break-down of dry vegetation).
    - Salt.
    - Molasses.
• Deficiencies differ according to vegetation composition/soil properties/climate.
• Analysis of vegetation/soil samples can benefit the decision for supplement composition.
• Sell mature, marketable animals (to help prevent overstocking/ overgrazing).
• If grazing is in danger, herd animals into pens where different animals can be segregated and fed separately.

E. Grazing

• Subdivide your grazing area into camps of homogeneous units (in terms of species composition, slope, aspect, rainfall, temperature, soil and other factors) to minimise area
selective grazing as well as to provide for the application of animal management and veld management practises such as resting and burning.

- Determine the carrying capacity of different plant associations.
- Calculate the stocking rate of each, and then decide the best ratios of large and small animals, and of grazers or browsers.
- Provide periodic full growing-season rests (in certain grazing areas) to allow veld vigour recovery in order to maintain veld productivity at a high level as well as to maintain the vigour of the preferred species.
- Do not overstock at any time to avoid overgrazing.
- Eradicate invader plants.
- Periodically reassess the grazing and feed available for the next few months, and start planning in advance.
- Spread water points evenly.

F. **Pests and diseases**

**Crops**
- Fruit crop farmers should regularly scout for pests and diseases and contact the local agricultural office for advice on best control measures. Farmers should further implement phytosanitary measures.

**Livestock**
- Follow the vaccine routine and consult with the local veterinarian.

G. **Veld fires**

Provinces and farmers are advised to maintain firebreaks in all areas. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing firebreaks (Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998):

- It has to be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land.
- It does not cause soil erosion and
- It is reasonably free of flammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.
- Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent.
- Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground or a combination of these.
- Firebreaks must be located in such a way as to minimize risk to the resources being protected.
- Erosion control measures must be installed at the firebreak.

**Firebreaks can be made through the following methods:**
- Mineral earth firebreak:
  - Through ploughing, grading, other earth movement.
- Use of herbicides.
- Use animals to overgraze specifically to minimise fuel.
- Strategic placement of burned areas,
  - Not to be done on days with fire hazard (windy and dry/hot).
- Plant fire resistant plants.
• Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks must be non-invasive and capable of retarding the spread of fire.

**Maintaining firebreaks:**
• Mow, disk, or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
• Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials.
• Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary.
• Repair erosion control measures as necessary.
• Access by vehicles or people must also be controlled.
• Bare ground firebreaks, which are no longer needed must be stabilized i.e.
  o Sow grass.
  o Mulch.

**What to do when conditions favorable for veld fire are forecast:**
• Prohibit fires in the open air during periods of high fire hazard and establish a fire control committee.
• To control fires, an alarm system, firefighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared.
• Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to a safe place.

**What to do during a veld fire:**
• Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.
• Tree branches can be used to beat fire.

**H. Flooding**

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

**Preventive measures:**
• Construction of proper drainage systems. Drains must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation.
• Mechanical land treatment of slopes such as contour ploughing or terracing to reduce the runoff coefficient.
• Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
• Construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
• Terracing hillsides to slow flow downhill.
• Water pumps in rivers likely to be affected should be lifted from the river banks when a warning for heavy rain has been issued.

**What to do when flooding is forecasted:**

**Avoid:**
• Cutting grass in the rainy season as this can result in nutrient depletion.
• Applying fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
• Applying Nitrogen fertilizer as this can burn plants. Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burnt and die.
• Irrigation, this can result in waterlogging leading to nutrient depletion.

Other measures to implement:
• Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
• Provide shelter for animals (young ones can die easily).
• Leave cultivated areas coarse.
• Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.
• Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and high temperatures may trigger these.
• Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
• Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining.

Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of soil and rocks by the action of natural forces, for example, water and wind. The loose and dissolved materials move from one location to another. Erosion therefore may reduce agricultural production potential.

Preventative measures for erosion:
• Do not burn vegetation.
• Keep vegetation cover – e.g. shrubs, grass, small trees; a cover crop may be used to increase organic material and increase soil structure.
• Plant permanent vegetation e.g. perennial grasses where possible.
• Maintain any remaining vegetative cover, e.g. maize stubble during winter wheat sowing, as it acts as a blanket, traps eroded particles and reduces the wind speed at ground level.
• Plant evergreen trees growing densely and perpendicular to the typical wind direction during winter and spring as wind breaks.
• Increase water infiltration by correct management of soil e.g. reduce frequency of plough and use minimum tillage.
• Mulch: to increase infiltration, reduce evaporation, and reduce raindrop impact as well as wind erosion.
• Construct retaining walls around gardens.
• Avoid soil compaction by roughening the soil surface,
  o Furrows and tillage ridges can trap loose soil.
• Farm along contours as this reduces slope lengths.
• Prevent overgrazing.
• Practice conservation farming
  o Maximize retention of crop residues.
I. Heat stress – bad for productivity

- Signs of heat stress:
  Bunching in shade, high respiratory rates, open mouth breathing.
- What to do:
  - Offer shade.
  - Offer water - keep good quality water in front of animals.
  - Wet with sprinklers/fire hose.
  - Water ground.
  - Avoid overworking animals.
  - Control insects. Biting insects, such as flies can further stress livestock and interrupt their cooling. If pastures or buildings draw insects to livestock during times of extreme heat, provide proper insecticides or considering relocating your livestock.

Poultry

- Provide cool, clean, quality drinking water to your poultry. Water will help keep your birds cool.
- Always make sure your poultry is in a well-ventilated area in which there is nothing to obstruct the airflow.
- Provide feed during the coolest part of the day.
- Supplement drinking water with electrolytes.
- Reduce the number of birds kept in a house or in an area.
- Avoid excessive activity during the hottest part of the day.

J. Severe thunderstorms/flash floods

Building resilience:

- Identify resources/facilities within 50 km that can be utilized and can be of help during emergencies.
- Be sure to have legal and adequate markings to identify your livestock.
- Stay well informed about livestock in your possession and conduct an inventory after the event.
- Monitor television and local radio stations for information regarding severe storms/flash floods in your region.
- Identify natural or built areas/shelters where animals can be kept during such conditions
  - Sufficient height to be above water level,
  - Sheltered from strong winds and wetness,
- Restrict access to high-risk areas such as low lying fields close to streams.
- Store food in safe areas sheltered from wetness to be used after storms/flash floods.
- Keep pesticides and other chemicals in areas where water will not be contaminated during extreme rainfall/storm events.
- Inspect/repair farm dams before rainy season, and after each event.
The veld and livestock are in reasonable condition in most areas. Winter crops that have been planted are in reasonable to good condition. Above-normal rainfall is expected for summer rainfall areas during the entire forecast period (October 2022 to February 2023). Maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal.

Land preparations for summer crops have begun in some areas. Dryland farmers are advised to wait for sufficient moisture before planting. Areas that have been constantly experiencing dry conditions should prioritise drought tolerant cultivars. In regions that are in reasonable condition, farmers are advised to prepare in line with the expected conditions i.e. in line with the seasonal forecast. However they should not expand planting land unnecessarily. In addition farmers should note that rainfall distribution remains a challenge, therefore not all areas might receive the anticipated above-normal rainfall that is well distributed. Farmers are also advised to put measures in place for pests and diseases associated with wet and hot conditions as above-normal rainfall is anticipated. Moreover, it is important for farmers to follow the weather forecast regularly so as to make informed decisions. Farmers using irrigation should comply with water restrictions in their areas. Farmers must continually conserve resources in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983, (Act No. 43 of 1983).

Farmers are advised to keep livestock in balance with carrying capacity of the veld, and provide additional feed such as relevant licks. Livestock should be provided with enough water points on the farm as well as shelter during bad weather conditions. Veld fires have been reported in several provinces and there is high fuel load in summer rainfall areas; and the risk of fires remains until first rains. Therefore the maintenance of fire belts through mechanical means should be prioritized as well as adherence to veld fire warnings. Episodes of flooding resulting from rain bearing weather systems are likely and precautionary measures should be in place. Heat waves have been reported and will occur during summer and therefore measures to combat these should be in place. Farmers are encouraged to implement strategies provided in the early warning information issued.

The users are urged to continuously monitor, evaluate, report and attend to current Disaster Risk Reduction issues. It is very important and mandatory for farming communities to always implement disaster risk measures and maintain good farming practices.

The climate advisory should be disseminated widely. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory. Information sharing groups are encouraged especially among farming communities for sustainable development. In general, effective communication among all stakeholders in the sector will enhance effective implementation of risk reduction measures/early warning services. It is the responsibility of farmers to implement disaster risk measures.

The Disaster Management Act 2002, (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information. The current advisory can be accessed from the following websites: https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/.
For more information contact:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DALRRD, Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction</th>
<th>SAWS: Private Bag X097 Pretoria 0001</th>
<th>ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate and Water Private Bag X79 Pretoria 0001</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Bag X250 Pretoria 0001</td>
<td>Tel: 012 319 6775/ 6794 Email: <a href="mailto:MittaA@Dalrrd.gov.za">MittaA@Dalrrd.gov.za</a></td>
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<td>Tel: 012 367 6000 Fax: 012 367 6200 <a href="http://www.weathersa.co.za">http://www.weathersa.co.za</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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