

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Transport of fodder freight subsidy

The Transport of fodder freight subsidy jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for Queensland primary producers. The purpose of the scheme is to assist primary producers whose properties are natural disaster declared to manage the welfare of their livestock during and after the event. The transport of fodder subsidy helps with the cost of transporting fodder to affected livestock and applies to the loaded portion of the journey only.

Eligibility

To apply for this subsidy, you must meet the following conditions:

- You are a primary producer. For the purposes of this scheme, a primary producer is a person or a partner in a partnership, company or trust who spends more than 50 per cent of their labour on and derives more than 50 per cent of their gross income from a primary production enterprise.
- You are a property owner, share-farmer or lessee in the grazing industry (beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, goats, deer or horses that are not normally hand-fed).
- Your property was within a DRFA disaster activated area for freight subsidy assistance or had a current Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration on the date the transport occurred.
- The transport of fodder was for the emergency animal welfare needs of the livestock.
- The fodder was used to feed livestock permanently residing on the property.
- The total amount of fodder purchased and on hand does not exceed the minimum amount needed to feed livestock for three months.
- The fodder was transported from the closest source that is practically available. A distance restriction of 1,000 km exists on all types of fodder and subsidies will be reduced if this distance restriction is exceeded.¹
- The fodder was transported by hired carrier, ship or rail.
- Your application is received in Brisbane within **six months** of the date the fodder was transported.
- The fodder was transported within 12 months from the date of the natural disaster activation and was purchased for emergency feeding of livestock.
- The fodder was to replace fodder or pastures destroyed or damaged during the disaster event.

The subsidy applies to the transport of:

- fodder for beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, goats, horses, deer. Other livestock industries may be eligible for subsidy depending on the nature and extent of the natural disaster.
- grain, hay, urea, molasses (and other supplements approved by DAF) used to feed livestock

¹ The 1000 km distance restriction may not apply if it has been extended following a recommendation from a DAF Climate Risk Coordinator. In such cases, the Climate Risk Coordinator will recommend a maximum distance on a case-by-case basis. The 1000 km distance restriction does not apply to the transport of molasses; however, a 2000 km limit applies on the combined land and sea transport of molasses. This distance cannot be extended by the Climate Risk Coordinator.

Ineligibility

The subsidy does not apply to:

- transport of fodder grown and/or stored by the applicant or company owned by the applicant
- any fodder transported via private vehicles
- where stock numbers are considered by DAF to be higher than the average stocking rates of similar enterprises in the area
- where fodder is transported between properties under the same ownership. This includes properties that are leased by the same individuals, companies or their subsidiaries. However, consideration will be given to applications for movements between properties under the same ownership but with different PICs and where fodder supplies are purchased with the management of both properties in mind, and are initially transported to property 'A' and then a portion is moved to property 'B'
- the transport of fodder that was then subsequently on-sold to a third party.

Subsidy rates

Subsidy rates are provided for information purposes only; you do not have to make your own calculations. Subsidies will be calculated by DAF and paid out at the following rates:

<i>Hired Carrier</i>	<i>Either 50% of the loaded portion of the transport cost, or 13 cents / tonne / kilometre (whichever is the lower amount)</i>
<i>Rail</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of the transport cost</i>
<i>Ship</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of shipping costs on consignments approved by DAF</i>

How to apply

Application forms are available online at www.daf.qld.gov.au or can be posted or emailed to you if you contact the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23. Keep a copy of your tax invoices for your records and submit completed application forms and tax invoices to the DAF Brisbane office at the below address. Please post applications to:

*Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Freight Subsidies
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Level 6
GPO Box 46
Brisbane Qld 4001*

Or email: naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au

Supporting documents

DAF is unable to process freight subsidy applications without copies of all tax invoices that relate to the purchase and transport of the fodder. Please include copies of all tax invoices with your application. It is useful if the invoices show fodder descriptions, weights, points of purchase and distance travelled. Remember to keep a copy of the application for yourself, as tax invoices will not be returned to you unless requested.

If your fodder has been donated to you, please provide the details (including approximate weight and type of fodder) in correspondence and attach to your claim.

If you are a Queensland Rail (QR)/Aurizon account customer, attach your copy of the consignment note (advice of goods/gate pass), the QR/Aurizon invoice and your receipt or statement showing payment.

Minimum and maximum payments

The minimum payment for each application is \$25. No payment will be made for any claims under this amount.

The maximum level of financial assistance available is \$5,000 per property, per disaster event on combined freight subsidies. **For the purposes of this scheme, all properties or land parcels included under a single Property Identification Code (PIC) are considered to be one property.**

This scheme does not allow the splitting of partnerships, properties or land parcels to access more than the prescribed maximum amount.

Where you have received a payment that you are not eligible to receive, DAF reserves the right to pursue reimbursement, which may also include reclaiming funds from any future eligible DRFA freight subsidy applications that you submit.

Processing times

DAF aims to process all claims within 21 working days. Incomplete claims or claims that do not clearly meet the eligibility requirements may take longer. To ensure your claim is processed as quickly as possible, please make sure you have provided all of the required information and that you meet the eligibility criteria.

Payment method

DAF's preferred method of payment is direct electronic transfer into your bank account; however, you may request payment by cheque. You can indicate on your form which method you would prefer.

Assessment

DAF will consider all applications for the transport of fodder received within **six months** of the date of transport.

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. DAF reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in DAF refusing your application. DAF also reserves the right to refuse an application, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.

Applications submitted may be subject to audit by DAF or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

Fraudulent applications

By signing the application form, you are declaring that you have read the guidelines and the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate. Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply. If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the subsidy.

Appeal and review process

If you are declined assistance because your claim was received by DAF outside of the eligible time limit, you can request a re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and outline the reasons why your application was late. Payment of a declined claim may be approved at the Minister's discretion, if the Minister considers that there are extenuating circumstances that contributed to the late submission.

If you are declined assistance because DAF officers believe you do not meet the eligibility criteria (for example, DAF officers believe you do not qualify as a 'primary producer' for the purpose of this scheme), you may request re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and outlining the reasons why you believe you are eligible and including any additional supporting evidence. Payment of a declined claim may be approved at the Minister's discretion, if the Minister considers that the evidence provided by you demonstrates that you meet the eligibility criteria.

Producer responsibilities

While this scheme is to help you to manage the welfare of your animals, it does not discharge you from your legal responsibilities under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. You should continue to manage the welfare of your animals, either by continuing to destock, by supplementary feeding or by carrying water, until such time as conditions on your property improve.

Guidelines

These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing. DAF reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website frequently. The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by DAF.

While DAF has taken all care in preparing these guidelines, DAF will not be liable in any way for any errors, omissions or variation to information in these guidelines or for not advising an applicant of any errors, omissions or variations to information in these guidelines.

DAF may cancel or suspend this scheme at any time without notice.