



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

National warning issued by SAWS valid for, 30 October 2023

Very cold conditions are expected in most parts of Limpopo Province.

Please find Severe Weather Warning Service information issued for Limpopo.

Hazard	Alert Level	Valid From (SAST)	Valid To (SAST)
Very cold condition	Warning	30/10/2023 Monday	31/10/2023 Monday

An intense cut-off low pressure system is expected to affect the southern, central, and eastern parts of the country until Wednesday (01 November). The public and small stock farmers are advised that cold to very cold, wet and windy conditions are expected in Limpopo. This will cover Waterberg, Vhembe, Mopani, Capricorn, and Sekhukhune districts.

Advisory. Warning (colour coded red), indicating “take action”. This level indicates that hazardous conditions are occurring or are about to occur within the next 1 to 24 hours.

What to do when cold/snowfall conditions are forecast

Protecting livestock from cold weather/snowfalls conditions

- Please take the extra care to provide for your pets and livestock during cold periods.
- Management of the cow's environment- move all livestock to the safe area. e.g. warm place',
- It is very important that livestock be provided extra hay/forage/feed as up to double the calories for normal body heat maintenance may be needed in extreme cold.
- Do not shear the Angora goat. Also, take extra time to observe livestock, looking for early signs of disease and injury.
- Severe cold-weather injuries or death primarily occur in the very young or in animals that are already debilitated. Cases of cold weather-related sudden death in calves often result when cattle are suffering from undetected infection, particularly pneumonia. Sudden, unexplained livestock deaths and illnesses should be investigated quickly so that a cause can be identified and steps can be taken to protect remaining animals.

- Special attention should be paid to very young and old animals. They may be less able to tolerate temperature extremes and have weaker immune systems.

Protecting plants from very cold weather/ snowfalls

- Protect plants by Covering – paper, cloth – over framework around tree, mulching.
- Wrapping trunks of frost sensitive trees e.g. Citrus.
- Watering during cold stages (irrigate drop with frost/apply just a trickle at base of tree).
- Increase air circulation.

Following are several concerns and recommendations.

- Our animals, especially indoor/outdoor pets, probably do not have an adequate cold coat for protection in these very low temperatures.
- Hypothermia and dehydration are the two most probable life-threatening conditions for animals in cold weather, wet conditions and wind-chill add greatly to the cold stress for animals.
- Livestock should be provided with windbreak and roof shelter, and monitored for signs of discomfort (extensive shivering, weakness, lethargy, etc.).
- It is critical that animals have access to drinking water. Usual water sources may freeze solid in low temperatures and dehydration becomes a life-threatening factor. Many of our animals, especially the young, may not know how or be unable to break several inches of ice to reach water. In general, animals tend to drink less in extreme cold, risking dehydration.
- Adding a warm sloppy bran mash, sloppy moistened beet pulp or soaking pelleted feed in warm water is a good way to add water to your horses; diet and provide some comfort food; in the cold weather.
- Select frost tolerant plants over frost prone areas.
- Place cold sensitive plants in protected locations Western, northern exposures, full sun or lock walls.
- Do not prune cold-damaged plants until they begin growing in spring.




A comprehensive list of strategies can be found in the monthly NAC Advisory. It can be accessed from the following websites: www.lard.gov.za and www.dalrrd.gov.za

The Disaster Management Act (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information.

For more information contact Provincial Disaster Risk Management and Vulnerability:

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