



# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY 2020



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

## January 2020

Three months folks. It's three consecutive months that temperatures have been above average and rainfall below normal in many areas of the region.

The Ruahine Range is gagging for rain after posting scores of 34%, 72% and 36% of November, December and January average rainfall respectively.

The health of our river flows, soil moisture levels and groundwater levels is on the wane as the heat continues and the rain stays sparse in our rivers' headwaters. It's compounded by the hot and relatively windy conditions hoisting evapotranspiration rates over the last three months.

On the plus side - It was a good time to flock to our swimming spots where water quality came to the party and held up well. Secondly, my home-grown bananas finally ripened – all of them, rapidly.

In an effort not to waste them I'm on a carb-only diet and oozing banana from every orifice.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air

## SUMMARY January 2020

Unhelpful – too little rain and more than enough heat

*This is a summary of the regions rainfall, river flows, ground water, air quality and soil moisture levels. Data and images provided by HBRC.*

### February to March Forecast.

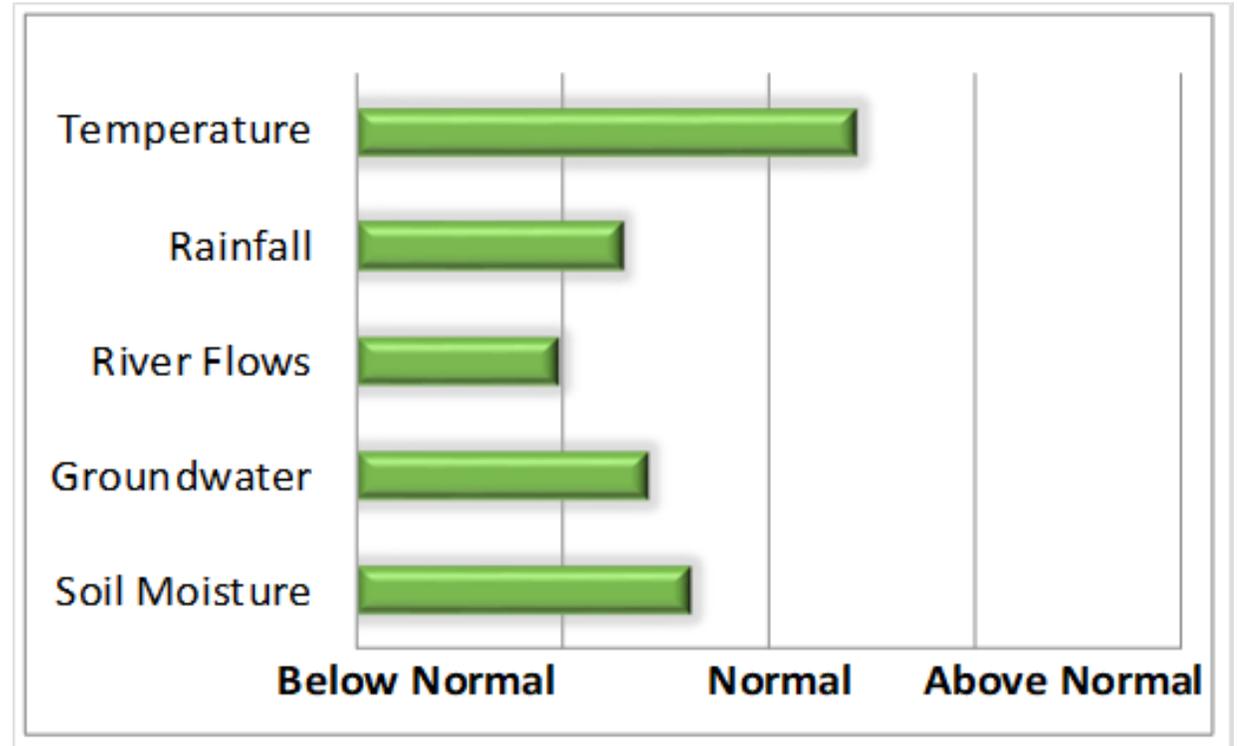
Temperature	Near or above average
Rain	Near normal
River flows	Near or below normal
Soil moisture	Near or below normal

*source : NIWA*

For more information

[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)

P: 06 835 9200



## RAINFALL

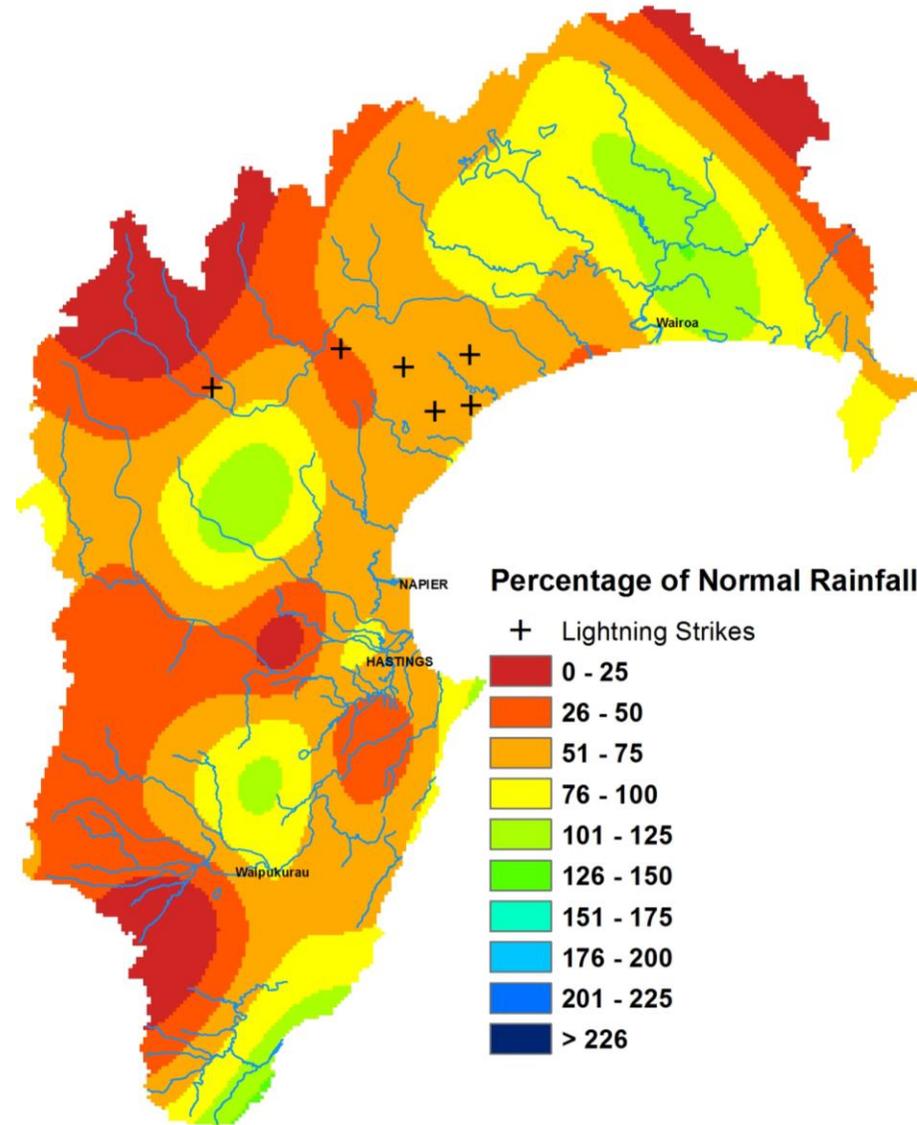
Below normal, especially in the Ruahine Range.  
Six cloud to ground lightning strikes.

Percentage of normal January rainfall  
(30 year average)

*Lightning counts come from the Blitzortung.org  
lightning network to which HBRC contributes.*

### For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	78%
Northern HB	85%
Tangoio	77%
Kaweka	57%
Ruahine	36%
Heretaunga Plains	57%
Ruataniwha Plains	57%
Southern HB	65%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>64%</b>



## TEMPERATURES

Upwards and onwards, i.e. above average... again

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.8 °C

Minimum Temperature: 0.6 °C

Mean Daily Maximum: 23 °C

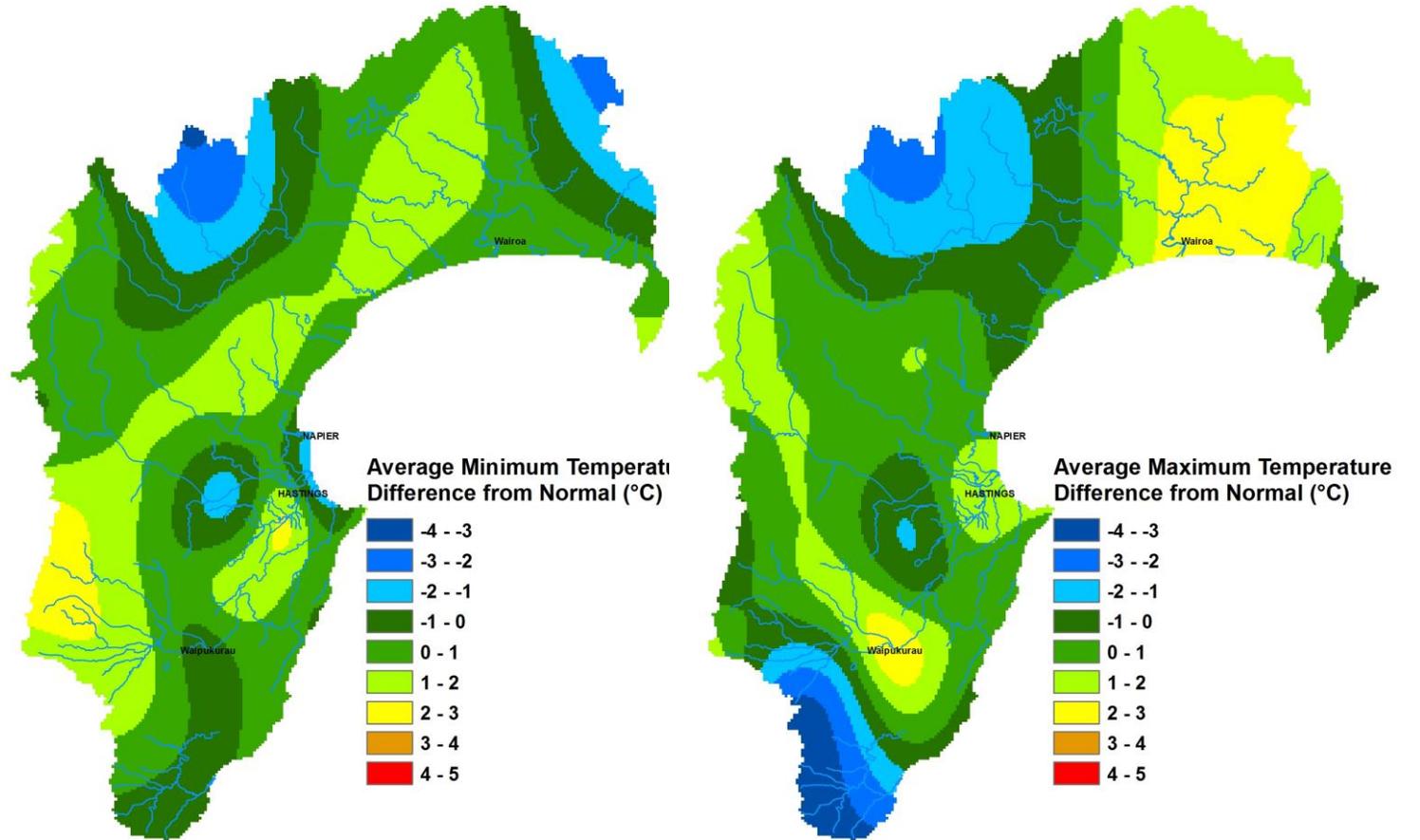
Mean Daily Minimum: 12 °C

Highest Daily: 34.6°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: 1.0 °C

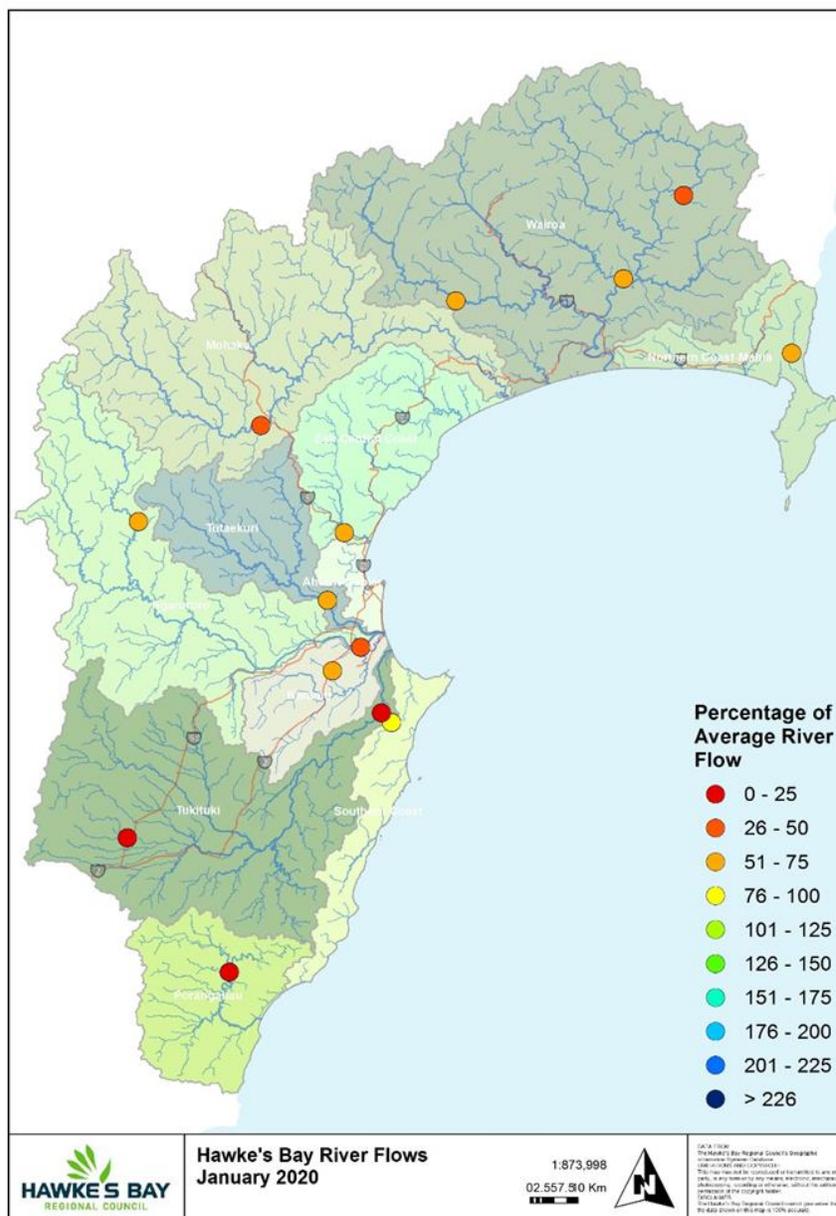
Location: Taharua



## RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average January flows  
for areas in the region:

Northern Coast – Mahia	58%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	46%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	66%
Northern HB – Waiau River	59%
Mohaka	42%
Esk-Central Coast	65%
Tūtaekuri	54%
Karamu	57%
Ngaruroro – Kuripapango	55%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	46%
Southern Coast	81%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	21%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	24%
Porangahau	1%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>48%</b>

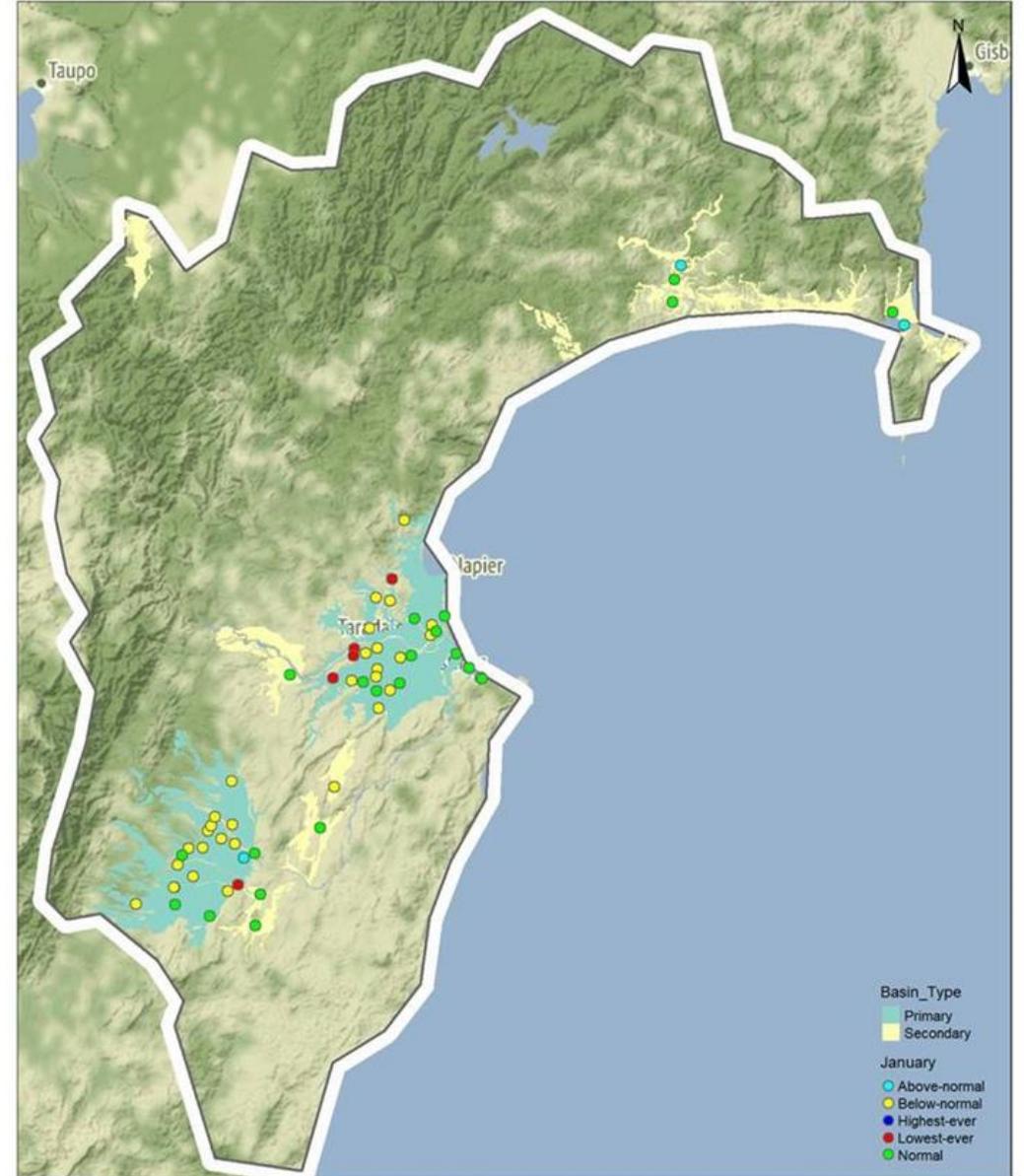
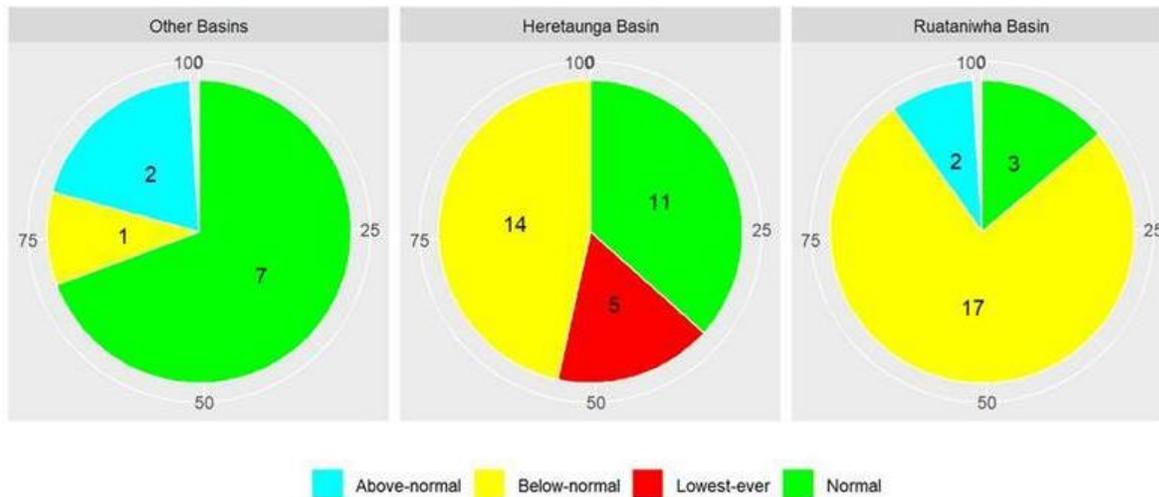


## GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

**Soil Moisture:** Below normal everywhere and has been for an extended period in Central Hawke's Bay

### Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels in January with historic readings to evaluate current conditions. To assess these conditions, we have grouped groundwater levels at each well relative to their monthly percentiles. Groundwater levels measuring between their monthly minimum and 25th percentile are considered below-normal, groundwater levels measuring between the 25th and 75th percentiles are classed as normal, and groundwater levels measuring between the 75th-maximum are considered above-normal. Wells with less than 5 years of record are excluded from the analysis.



## Recreational Water Quality

Swimming spots around Hawkes Bay have been busy with people looking to cool off in the hot January weather.

The new year brought with it warm temperatures and little rain, making most swim spots around Hawkes Bay good-to-go. Mahia beach experienced one exceedance in January, with the rest of the beach sites and central/southern river sites looking like the places to be this summer.

Clive River and Nuhaka River experienced multiple exceedances in January and were re-sampled following each high result. Coastal Lagoons: Kairakau, Maungawhio and Waipatiki each experienced one exceedance during Jan.

Water Quality summer students will continue weekly sampling of swimming spots over February, you can find weekly results at [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz)



## LONGER FORECAST

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation has settled into neutral mode and will stay that way for the coming couple of seasons. Some decent rain over the next week doesn't look likely and we have to hope the weather models' three month outlook of "near normal" everything is on the money.

There's a hint we'll get more north-east winds than we have over the past few months, with pressures potentially lower through the Tasman Sea than to the east of us. Some action in the tropics is expected mid-February. Where the humid systems track will be of interest - at this early stage down the east coast of Australia.

While an injection of rain would be welcome soon-ish, a tropical deluge isn't our preferred mode of delivery.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
**Principal Scientist - Climate and Air**

## MPI comment for HBRC SOE January 2020

Compared with recent summers, the increasingly dry conditions, particularly in southern Hawke's Bay, have started to impact the primary sector, including with a number of fires. In general, this is a fairly typical dry summer; however, if the hot, dry and windy weather continues more farmers will be taking action. Uncertainty as how the novel coronavirus in China will impact exports also complicates the outlook.

Pastoral farmers generally hope for good rains once it becomes cooler towards the end of February. If they get good moisture by March, this will stack up as a good season on dairy farms.

The last rainfall in mid-January was more effective due to being accompanied by cooler, overcast weather. It rejuvenated dryland fodder crops on dairy farms and briefly lifted some irrigation bans.

Rainfall in December was important for getting feed crops underway, and stock are generally well-fed and in good condition. However, some summer feed crops have been disappointing due to later planting and hot, very dry conditions in November.

The excellent works prices in early summer were a good incentive for many farmers to sell stock sooner rather than later. Prices for prime and store stock have fallen but are still strong relative to historical levels. The increased lamb numbers after a good lambing are more than making up for current lower prices and lighter lambs. Some farmers in dry areas have been forced to sell store lambs. There have been delays in getting stock into meat processors as this is a busy time of year.

Dairy farmers have plenty of supplementary feed on hand and some fodder crops. Milk production is only slightly behind last year. Many herds go on Once-A-Day milking at this time of year. Mating went well with cows in good condition after a good winter.

**Gillian Mangin and Annette Carey**