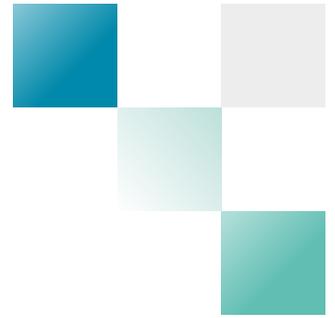


Planning for Water Scarcity

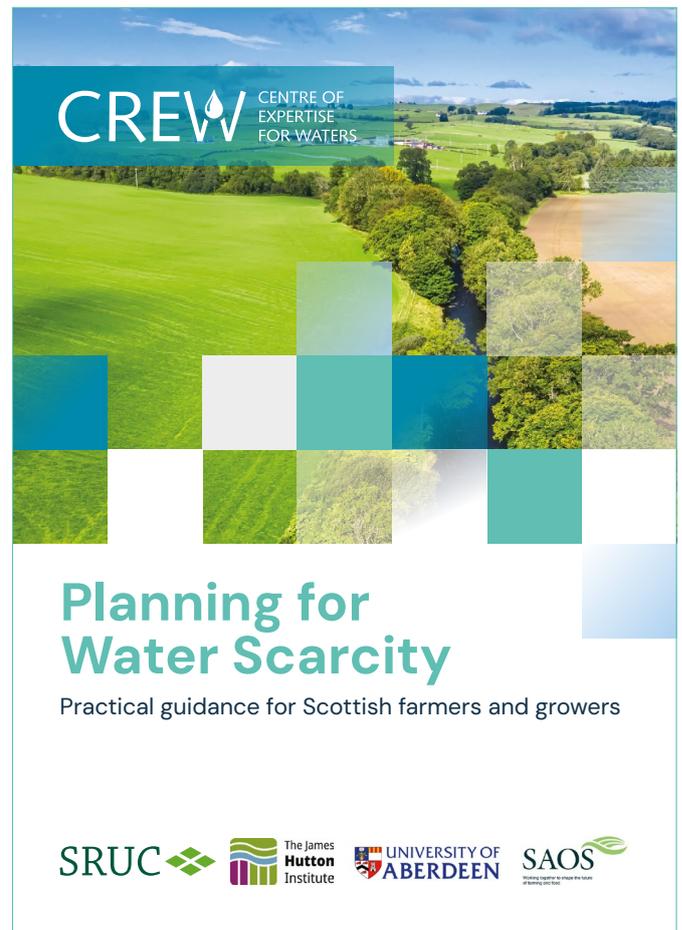


Practical guidance for Scottish farmers and growers

Scotland's water scarcity risk is increasing, particularly during the crucial crop growing season. Climate change predictions show water scarcity is likely to become more common, meaning everyone needs to be more thoughtful about their water use. This isn't just about protecting businesses; it's also vital for the wildlife and biodiversity that depend on our water environment. The reality is, we can no longer assume we are a predictably "wet" country.

With a focus on supporting farmers and growers across Scotland, the Planning for Water Scarcity guide looks at improving the efficiency of water use across the farm business. It provides an overview of the most up to date information around the changing nature of water availability across Scotland, alongside a review of alternative or supplementary water supplies to support agricultural production.

The guide considers ways individual agricultural businesses can identify their risk in terms of water scarcity, and in doing so, take action to protect livestock and crop yields. It highlights practical ideas and guidance on efficient water use, including case studies to show how other farmers have taken a new approach to water storage, management and use on the farm, helping to further build resilience in a changing climate.





Key messages in the *Planning for Water Scarcity* guide include:

- Water availability for crop irrigation and other uses is changing. This previously plentiful resource is now under increasing pressure as our rainfall patterns change.
- It's not just businesses that are affected. Water scarcity affects wildlife and habitats too.
- Know your risk and plan ahead. Understand how resilient your business is in the face of changing water availability.
- Abstraction permits help to manage water but don't guarantee access, especially at times of water scarcity. Previously agreed daily abstraction volumes could be significantly reduced or stopped depending on water availability.
- Considered water use, efficient irrigation and alternative supplies can all help to reduce the pressure on the water environment whilst maintaining yields at times of water stress. More farmers are looking at winter storage lagoons to supplement summer irrigation needs.

The guide also contains tools aimed at farmers and growers to help identify risk and increase resilience in the face of increased water scarcity. These include a step-by-step way to assess the farm business exposure to water scarcity risk, creating a drought risk profile, plus points to consider when developing a bespoke farm weather resilience plan.

Making better use of water not only reduces the impact of water scarcity on the farm business, but can also support biodiversity, protect freshwater resources and contribute towards rural livelihoods in the face of increasing water stress across the country.

The guide is available to download at <https://www.crew.ac.uk/publications/planning-for-water-scarcity> or via the QR code:



The Planning for Water Scarcity document was produced in partnership with SAC Consulting, The University of Aberdeen, The James Hutton Institute and SAOS, funded by CREW at the request of SEPA.

