

Rural Aid Farm Recovery Events - A meaningful corporate volunteering experience

Farm Recovery Events (FREs) give our partners the opportunity to step onto farms and work alongside Rural Aid staff and volunteers providing practical support and connection directly with farmers who have been impacted by drought, fire, flood and other natural disasters. Rural Aid Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) counsellors are present throughout each event, providing support to farmers and volunteers as needed across the week.

At Rural Aid, we believe the conversation is just as important as the work we do.

What to Expect

Corporate partners take part in Farm Recovery Events alongside Rural Aid staff and volunteers, supporting farmers through practical assistance and shared time on farm. Events run for 5 days (Monday to Friday) and are carefully planned to be well organised, safe, and genuinely useful for the farmers involved.

Corporate volunteers are welcome to attend for one day or multiple days and are not required to commit to the full week.

Timing notes: Wednesdays are a lighter evening “cook’s night off” with no organised group dinner. Volunteers are encouraged to support local hospitality businesses. On Fridays, the focus is on wrapping up jobs, with farmers invited to join volunteers at camp for the final meal and wrap-up of the week’s events.

Preparation and Coordination

A Rural Aid Works Coordinator attends the community approximately two weeks prior to the event to visit participating farms, scope the required work and prepare tasks. During the event, participants are allocated into teams of four to eight people, based on skill sets and the work required. All activities are coordinated and overseen by Rural Aid staff.

Types of Work

Corporate partners may assist with a range of practical tasks, including:

- Fencing and repairs to damaged infrastructure
- General farm maintenance
- House repairs, such as a painting and gardening
- Plumbing or mechanical assistance, where appropriate

Tasks are guided by the farmer’s priorities and coordinated by Rural Aid. While the work itself is important, equal value is placed on working alongside farmers and taking the time to connect.



What to Bring

To ensure comfort, safety, and preparedness while on-site, please come equipped with the following items:

- Bowl, cup, plate, and cutlery
- Refillable drink bottle
- Electrolytes or hydration supplements
- Work boots or covered shoes (compulsory)
- Old work clothing
- Long-sleeved shirts and long pants (for sun and/or cold weather protection)
- Wide-brimmed hat
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Work gloves (for handling timber, fencing, etc.)
- Hot water thermos

Supporting the Whole Community

Farm Recovery Events are designed to support the wider community, not just individual farms. Rural Aid purchases groceries locally to feed volunteers, sources farm supplies from local agricultural businesses, and engages local community groups to cater evening meals as paid fundraisers. This approach helps keep money circulating locally and strengthens community connection, recognising that when farmers are under pressure, their communities are impacted as well.

Registration

All corporate volunteers are required to individually register prior to attending a Farm Recovery Event.

Corporate Partnerships registration link:

<https://www.ruralaid.org.au/corporate-volunteering-invitation-registration/>

Accommodation, Travel and Meals

Corporate partners arrange their own travel and accommodation, with many choosing to stay locally and support regional businesses.

Rural Aid provides three meals each day. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by the Rural Aid kitchen team, while evening meals are catered by local community groups. These shared meals provide an opportunity to reflect on the day and spend time together in an informal setting.

