



FACT SHEET

JUNE 2021

Before preparing a paddock for a winter crop, there are four factors farmers should consider:

- 1** Winter feed cropping
- 2** Check the regulations
- 3** Paddock selection
- 4** Good farming principles

STEP 1: Winter feed cropping

- Do you need winter crop in your system?
- Does your farm system fit with the Land Use Capability of your farm?
- If you do need crop, how much is optimum?
- Consider the strengths and weaknesses of different crop types for your farm system

STEP 2: Check the regulations

Check for local and national regulatory requirements and rules about winter grazing. Regulation updates will be provided on www.beeflambnz.com
Contact your local council if you are uncertain about requirements in your region.

STEP 3: Paddock selection

What is good practice ✓

There are no significant drainage issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pugging risk is low on this paddock	<input type="checkbox"/>
The paddock is distant from waterways	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a 5 metre uncropped & ungrazed buffer from waterways	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no extensive networks of mole or pipe drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are few Critical Source Areas (CSAs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is dry ground for animals to lie on	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is shelter (vegetation or topography)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals have easy access to water and feed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals can be taken to treatment if needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals will not graze significant areas of biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>



Some paddocks are not suitable for winter grazing. Consider grass-to-grass renewal if needed, or select a different paddock or graze only with sheep and ensure mitigation methods are implemented.

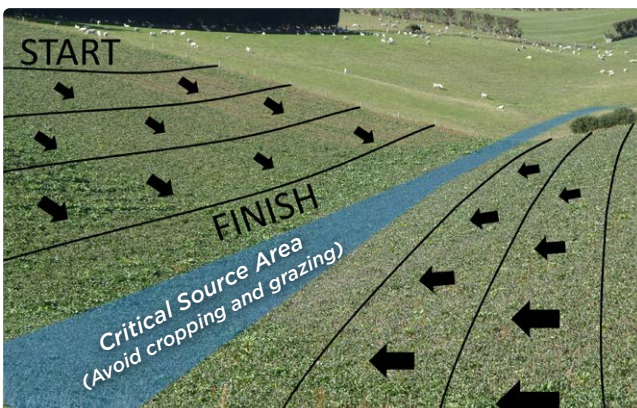
! If you cannot tick all of these, then you may need to review your paddock selection or choose a different paddock. For possible actions to address issues, check out B+LNZ's winter grazing resources www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing/pre-grazing

STEP 4: Good farming principles

Regulations, research and experience have identified the key factors to avoid, remedy or mitigate the possible impacts of winter grazing. For more information on each, check out B+LNZ's resources listed below.



Create a winter grazing plan (this includes plans for: crop establishment, grazing, adverse weather events, post-grazing management)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave an ungrazed and uncultivated buffer zone around critical source areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not have a winter crop in areas of significant biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave larger buffer areas on steeper slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal health plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned transition of animals onto crop to avoid animal health issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graze paddocks strategically - top to bottom	<input type="checkbox"/>
Move breaks regularly and make them long and narrow	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back fence regularly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use portable water troughs where possible	<input type="checkbox"/>
Look after stock by providing loafing/run off areas and adequate shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graze buffer strips around critical source areas last and only if soil conditions allow	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant a catch crop (to reduce soil and contaminant loss)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan for next year	<input type="checkbox"/>



Strategic winter grazing to minimise environmental losses

Start grazing at the top of a slope and move breaks downhill. The gully at the bottom of this paddock is a Critical Source Area (CSA) that is dry in summer but gets wet in winter and after heavy rain. It should be left ungrazed if possible or only grazed when conditions are dry.

B+LNZ RESOURCES

www.knowledgehub.co.nz
www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing

Further reading to download:

- [Winter forage crops: Management before grazing](#)
- [Ten top tips for winter grazing crops](#)
- [Sheep and beef cattle health review workbook](#)

Resources outlining the consent application process:

- www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/environment

For hard copies of publications please email: resources@beeflambnz.com

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