

OUR PLAN

Forage cropping templates

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IT1	Action Plan

Why am I forage cropping?

FC1

- Pasture renewal
- Providing additional feed to fill summer or winter feed gaps
- Limiting the impact stock may have on pastures
- Other: (please describe below)

Forage Crop Programme

FC2

Year:									
Crop type sown									
Season or month the forage crop fed									
What month do you usually sow?									
Cultivation and sowing method									
Location/Land management units used									
Identification of any unfenced waterways in winter crop paddocks									
Area sown in crop (ha)									
Typical yield (t DM/ha)									
Fertiliser used									
What class(es) of stock graze this crop?									

Winter forage crop grazing - Farm details

FC3

Farm details	Farm Name	
	Farm Address	
	Total farm area (ha)	
Farm owner details	Name	
	Phone number	
	Email address	
	Mailing address	
Manager details (if applicable)	Name	
	Phone number	
	Email address	
	Mailing address	
Stock owner details (if applicable)	Name	
	Phone number	
	Email address	
	Mailing address	
Staff details	Name	
	Phone number	
Other		

Winter forage crop grazing – Animal details

FC4

	Stock type and class or crop type	Total Across farm	Number of stock, area or supplement		
			Location (on-farm) Name	Land Management Unit (LMU) or paddock (if applicable) Name	Name
Stock numbers wintered on forage crop (break up by age or class as required, e.g., R1/R2 cattle, mixed-age cattle, mixed-age ewes, lambs, hoggets, weaners, stags, hinds)	Beef Cattle				
	Dairy Cattle				
	Sheep				
	Deer				
Area of Winter forage crop to be grazed over coming winter (ha)	Bulb brassica (swede/turnip) (ha)				
	Kale (ha)				
	Fodder beet (ha)				
	Other (please specify) (ha)				
Other supplements to be fed to winter grazed stock (e.g. silage, baleage, hay, straw)					
	Other				

Risk Assessment for forage cropping

Risk	Risk factors on your farm	Risk rating (High, Medium, Low)			
		Whole farm	Name	Name	Name
Sediment and Phosphorus loss risks Sediment or phosphorus potentially entering waterways may cause excess algae growth, habitat loss other harm to freshwater health.	Slope risk				
	Erosion potential risk				
	Overland transport of sediment and nutrients risk				
	Other risk				
Faecal microbe loss risks Contaminants, like pathogens such as <i>E. Coli</i> , potentially impacting on human health	Contamination of freshwater risk				
	Other risk				
	Nitrogen leaching risk				
Nitrogen loss risks Nitrogen potentially entering waterways impacting freshwater health or drinking water quality	Nitrogen sources risk				
	Other risk				
	Stock class type risk				
Soils damage risks Soil health and structure is damaged impacting on nutrient and sediment flow pathways as well as productive capabilities.	Soil Type risk				
	Crop type risk				
	Other risk				
Social or cultural values at risk Your values or catchment values at risk from your winter grazing activities.	Social risk				
	Cultural risk				
	Other risk				
Animal Welfare risks Animal health and wellbeing considerations	Temperature and shelter risk				
	Feed and water risk				
	Ground surface risk				
	Other risk				
Human risks Risks created or increased by people (rather than risks to people) that may impact on winter forage cropping activities	Training and skills risk				
	Other risks				

Winter grazing paddock plan template

FC6

On your paddock map draw on or indicate:

Physical features of this paddock	
Feature	Key (symbol)
Fences and gates	
Slope direction	
Waterways and drains	
Critical source areas	
Waterlines and troughs	
Shelter	

Action plan for this paddock	
Feature	Key (symbol)
Cultivation direction	
Grazing direction (which way the breaks will move)	
Areas not grazed	
Buffer areas around waterways and critical source areas	
Other (such as backfences or reserve areas)	
Other	

Notes

Paddock name or number:	Date:

Winter grazing paddock plan template

FC6

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Adverse weather event planning

FC7

	Location or area that stock will go to	Feed type and allocation	Number of days of feed budgeted for adverse events	Preparation before winter	Conditions when stock will return to regular winter grazing
If there is an adverse (large) rainfall event					
If there is an adverse (very cold) storm event					

Forage Cropping Monitoring and Review

FC8

	Yes/ No	Notes
Was the paddock sown to plan?		
Was the paddock grazed to plan?		
Were you able to avoid significant pugging in the paddock(s)?		
Do you have some photos of the forage cropping paddocks before, during and after grazing?		
Do you have locations recorded for each photo e.g. geolocated with GPS on mobile phone camera?		
Have you saved photos in a place you can easily access?		
Have you taken some notes over the forage cropping season?		
Did you need to action your adverse weather event plan for extreme weather?		
Did you have sufficient feed and area allocated for your adverse weather plan?		
Did you sow any catch crops?		
Based on your check, at the end of the season or cropping period it's important to reflect and review on:		
1) What worked well		
2) Areas that need improvement		
3) Things that you learnt over the cropping period or action that you will implement next season?		

Forage cropping checklist

FC9

Plan in place to identify:

- Feed requirements by stock class
 - Paddock/s selected based on appropriate soil type, low slope, low risk in relation to waterways, low flood risk
 - Animals have shelter, fresh clean water, dry place to rest
 - Use of catch-crops
 - Management of Critical Source Areas
 - Transition of animals onto crop
 - Access by staff, animals and machinery to minimise impacts
 - Winter forage crop grazed in accordance with national and regional rules and regulations
 - Response if conditions change through the grazed period
-

Crop sown using good practice:

- Direct drill or minimum tillage
 - Sown across the slope
 - Sown when soil moisture level was appropriate
 - Critical Source Areas were left uncropped
-
- Stock excluded from Critical Source Areas and waterways
 - Supplementary feed placed prior to grazing or supplementary feed fed in a dry, central part of the paddock
 - Portable troughs used or trough located in a dry, central part of the paddock

Animal health and welfare managed:

- Fresh clean water
 - Shelter
 - Dry place to rest
 - Stand-off area identified in case of very wet conditions or snow
-
- Staff are adequately trained in identifying any animal health issues, and to minimise impacts to soils
 - Staff have appropriate clothing and equipment to manage grazed area
 - Crop grazed from top down or at opposite end of paddock from waterway
 - Long and narrow breaks used
-

Soils looked after

- Minimised use of heavy machinery
 - Back-fenced
 - Stand-off areas used when very wet or in snow
-
- Critical Source Areas lightly grazed when soil not too wet near the end of crop
 - Catch-crop sown or paddock sown into next crop or pasture as soon as soil conditions allow

Catchment values and objectives – in relation to forage cropping:

FC10

As part of planning forage cropping, consider the wider catchment and catchment values and what impact winter grazing activities could have. Your local catchment group or Regional Council may already have some documentation on catchment values. These values can be things such as ensuring the ability to swim in waterways, maintaining or improving ecosystem health, and providing for māhinga kai.

In the box below, identify your local catchment(s) and what values or objectives your catchment group, community, and/or Regional Council has identified for the area. (Note, there is more detail in the Introduction and Overview section of the Farm Plan – Environment Module on catchment values and how to address them).

My Local Catchment:

Your Catchment values or objectives

E.g. Clean, healthy waterways for safe swimming

