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

1. **Winter feed cropping**
2. **National 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: National regulations
Below you can identify what is mandatory or a permitted activity to help you determine if you will need to apply for a resource consent for winter grazing.

**Mandatory according to national regulations**
If you can’t tick off the first 8 boxes or the last, you will need to apply for a resource consent.

1. No more than 50ha or 10% of the farm (whichever is largest) is used for winter forage crop grazing
2. Exclude stock from waterways with a MINIMUM 5m setback
3. Pugging is less than 20cm deep (excluding around fixed infrastructure e.g. water troughs & gateways)
4. Pugging of depths greater than 5cm do not cover more than 50% of the paddock
5. Paddock is resown by October 1 or November 1 in Southland or Otago
6. Average slope of the paddock is less than 10 degrees
7. Winter Grazing occurred on the property between 2014-2019
8. Area to be winter grazed is no greater than the area used previously (between 2014-2019)

**OR**
1. Create a Certified Freshwater Farm Plan
**STEP 3: Paddock selection**

What is good practice

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

**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](http://www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing/pre-grazing)

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.
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)

Leave an ungrazed and uncultivated buffer zone around critical source areas

Do not have a winter crop in areas of significant biodiversity

Leave larger buffer areas on steeper slopes

Animal health plan

Planned transition of animals onto crop to avoid animal health issues

Graze paddocks strategically - top to bottom

Move breaks regularly and make them long and narrow

Back fence regularly

Use portable water troughs where possible

Look after stock by providing loafing/run off areas and adequate shelter

Graze buffer strips around critical source areas last and only if soil conditions allow

Plant a catch crop (to reduce soil and contaminant loss)

Plan for next year

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**B+LNZ RESOURCES**

- [www.knowledgehub.co.nz](http://www.knowledgehub.co.nz)
- [www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing](http://www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing)

**Further reading to download:**
- [Winter forage crops: Management before grazing](http://example.com)
- [Ten top tips for winter grazing crops](http://example.com)
- [Sheep and beef cattle health review workbook](http://example.com)

**Resources outlining the consent application process:**
- [www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/environment](http://example.com)

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

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**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.