

ARE YOU SET FOR WINTER?

Use our winter grazing 2021 checklist to check and improve your winter preparations

What you do this winter matters to all farmers

This year, what we do during winter will be scrutinized more than ever so it is important we all do our bit and get it right. It isn't too late to make improvements for this winter. Animal welfare and environmental protection are both extremely important.

Use our easy checklist

The checklist below will help you assess whether you've covered off the key preparations for grazing.

Note: your regional council may have more stringent rules which apply in your area. If you're unsure please check with them.

Wintering Checklist	Green I'm all set to go	Orange This could be improved	Red Not planned, needs more preparation
Stock are excluded from waterways. You have a minimum buffer of 5m (more is required for sloping ground).			
Critical source areas (CSAs) are protected: ideally keep stock off them for the whole winter period. If you have cropped CSAs, fence them off and graze them last during good weather after the rest of the crop has been fed. Leave a good buffer area at the lowest point to filter any sediment run-off.			
Graze paddocks strategically. If adjacent to a waterway, graze towards the waterway. If on a slope graze downwards and in the direction of the water flow, or using a strategic plan suited to your location (such as an extra wide buffer).			
Plan the placement of supplementary feed and portable water troughs away from waterways, critical source areas, and ponding areas.			
Animal welfare requirements are critical: transition carefully, consider shelter, ability to lie down on firm ground, and access to water.			
Measure feed to accurately assess quantity, and plan daily feeding to ensure adequate feed for the whole winter (including extra feed for poor weather).			
Plan and manage mobs to reduce the risk of lambing / calving on crop.			
Develop an adverse weather plan for each winter grazing area to ensure that animal welfare and environmental protection needs will be met in poor weather.			
Make a plan to record evidence (photos, video, your farm diary) showing that good management practices are being implemented; and to use this year's learnings to inform next year's plan.			

Green

You're confident you're ready for the coming season, great work!

Orange

Check your preparations are in order, and complete any further necessary work. Check out the resources below which can help you.

Red

Now's the time to take action and sort out your planning – all farmers will be under scrutiny so you don't want to let the team down. Check out the resources below to help your preparations so you're winter ready.

Resources to help your winter planning and preparations

Beef & Lamb – beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing

Dairy NZ – dairynz.co.nz/wintergrazing. Dairy farmers can also contact their milk company for information.

Deer NZ – visit deernz.org and search for 'wintering feed systems'

MPI – mpi.govt.nz/protecting-freshwater-health

Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) – visit far.org.nz/resources and search for 'winter grazing'

In some regions, your local catchment group may also have information to assist you.

To check if there are any local rules you need to meet, contact your local regional council. If you're planning to expand your grazing or become more intensive you may need to check with your regional council if you need a consent.

Looking to the future

Going forward, all farmers who graze stock over winter will need to have a documented winter grazing plan. This plan can become part of your Farm Environment Plan.

DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb NZ are supporting farmers with wintering resources, information and events – look out for more information on these.

This information is brought to you and supported by:

