

Use the 'Example Winter Grazing Plan' to help you develop 'Your Winter Grazing Plan' using the template provided for break feeding this winter.

An effective winter grazing system:

- Supports good animal health and welfare by keeping your stock comfortable
- Minimises soil and nutrient loss to the environment
- Protects valuable topsoil
- Complies with regional and national regulations
- Has a contingency plan for extended wet weather
- Complements the overall dairy farm system and the farm team's work
- Creates clear expectations for the farm team
- Records all environmental risks and proof of good practice for your dairy company or council

Use Your Winter Grazing Plan for:

Planning

Determining paddock selection and cultivation

Setting up

Communicating with staff when setting up the paddock

Doing

Referring to during winter and adjusting

Reviewing

Reviewing next year's winter break feeding



If you would like advice on your planning, contact your local DairyNZ team - dairynz.co.nz/about-us/contact-us/

Example Winter Grazing Plan

Use the 'Example Winter Grazing Plan' to help you develop your 'Winter Grazing Plan' for break feeding this winter.

Paddock: 24

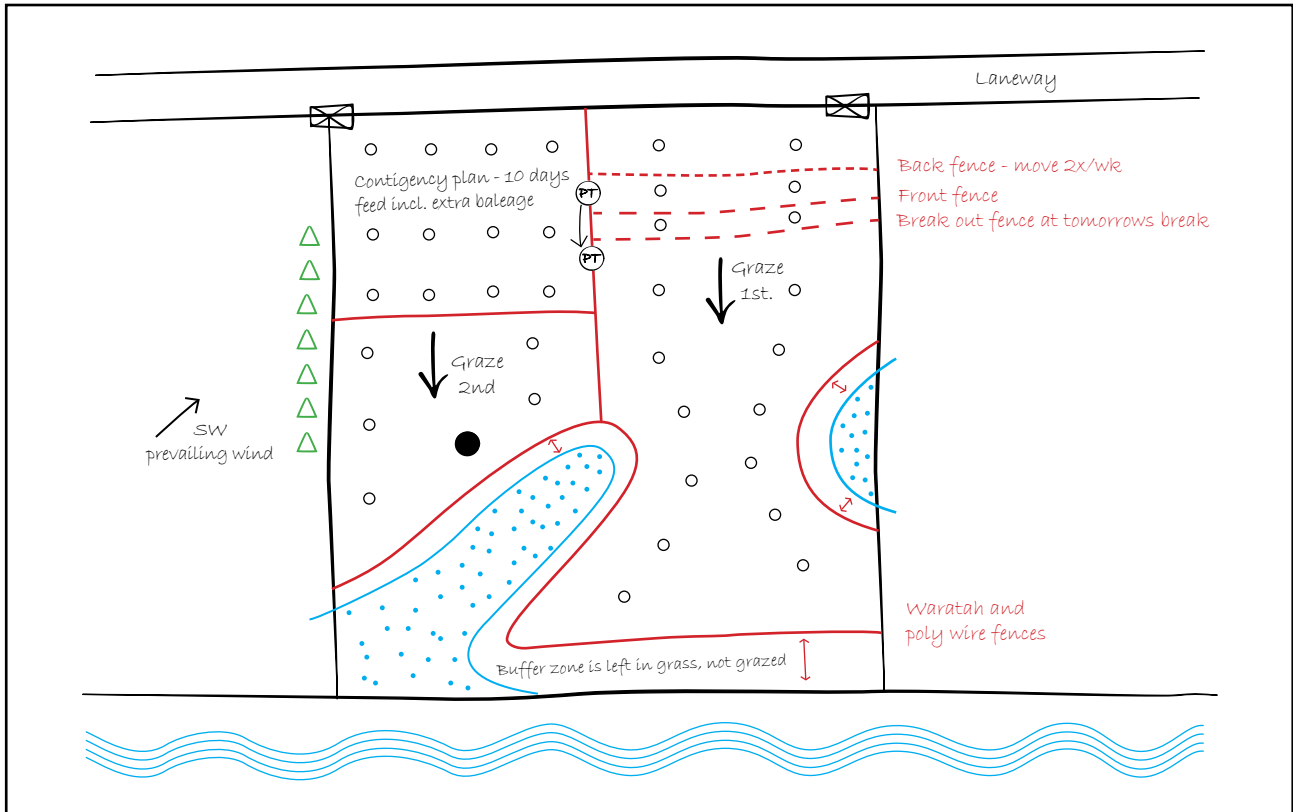
Mob name: Early calvers

Grazing dates: June 17th - 29th

Mob size: 100

Back fences are moved: 2x/wk

Portable troughs are moved: 2x/wk



Draw permanent features	
Gateways	
Laneways/raceways	
Permanent water troughs	
Waterways	
Swales and gullies	
Shelter (hedges and trees)	

Draw temporary features	
Buffer zones around swales, gullies and waterways	
Direction of grazing	
Baleage placement	
Portable troughs and hoses	
Semi-permanent fences for winter	
Front grazing fence & break out fence	
Back fence	

Example Winter Grazing Plan

Farm: Dairy Farm Ltd

Wintering area: 15 ha

Person in charge: Alex

No. of paddocks wintered on: 5

Dairy supply number: 611 222

Time frame when plan will be used: June 17th - 29th

Feed	
Our stock are well fed by...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a feed budget prior to the start of winter. • updating the feed budget to check the crop amount in mid-winter. • checking there is 1/3 of each bale left each afternoon. • giving access to a drier lying surface at the feed face. If not, giving the stock extra feed.
We transition our stock well by...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transitioning them onto crop gradually over 7 days. • giving extra baleage during the first 7 days. • offering the cows 4 bales and 5m of crop on the first day. • drafting any animal that does not adapt well and treating if appropriate.
We reduce mud in the paddock by...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fencing off wet areas • choosing the right grazing direction • placing baleage on high areas • moving portable water troughs • having small mob sizes.

Animals	
We reduce the risk of calving on crop by...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pregnancy date scanning all stock. • splitting mobs by calving date and BCS. • transitioning stock off crop 10-14 days before their due date. • looking for any signs of animals springing up and immediately taking any animals identified off crop.
We monitor animal health and welfare by...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring stock each day for mastitis, lameness, poor gut transition and general poor health. • morning checks: keeping an eye on any stock who are slow to come up to feed or are by themselves in the paddock. • afternoon checks: checking for visible lying bowls, at least a third of the herd lying down and some feed left in the ring feeders.
In wet weather, we meet animal welfare requirements by providing...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shelter: Hedge along west of paddock. • adequate lying time: High and dry area of the paddock. • access to water: Provide additional portable water troughs. • access to feeding: Ad lib feed will be made available (hay and baleage). • other:

Example Winter Grazing Plan

Extended periods of wet weather

Our longer-term wet weather plan will be implemented when...

- it is too wet for the stock to lie comfortably (eg. there are no lying bowls, water is pooling)
- there has been, or is going to be, a storm event.
- the weather persists over a 10-day forecast.

Our longer-term wet weather plan is...

- moving the stock to the Northwest area of the paddock, with easy access from the laneway.
- feeding extra hay and baleage and providing straw for bedding if needed.
- budgeting ten days or 10 percent contingency feed.

Documentation and Review

We will collect evidence of good management practice by...

- taking photos – before, during and after grazing the paddock.
- taking photos – showing the use of back fences, good buffers, portable troughs and healthy, content and well-fed stock.

We will review this year's wintering plan by...

- updating our paddock plan diagram with new ideas and use this to help with next winter's planning.
- using the DairyNZ '[Improving Your Wintering System guide](#)' to support this process.

Communication

We make sure everyone understands this plan by...

- sharing with the team ahead of winter and doing a refresher on how to identify and treat sick cows.
- setting up the paddock together using this map as a guide.

Your Winter Grazing Plan

Use the 'Example Winter Grazing Plan' to help you develop your 'Winter Grazing Plan' for break feeding this winter.

Paddock:

Mob name:

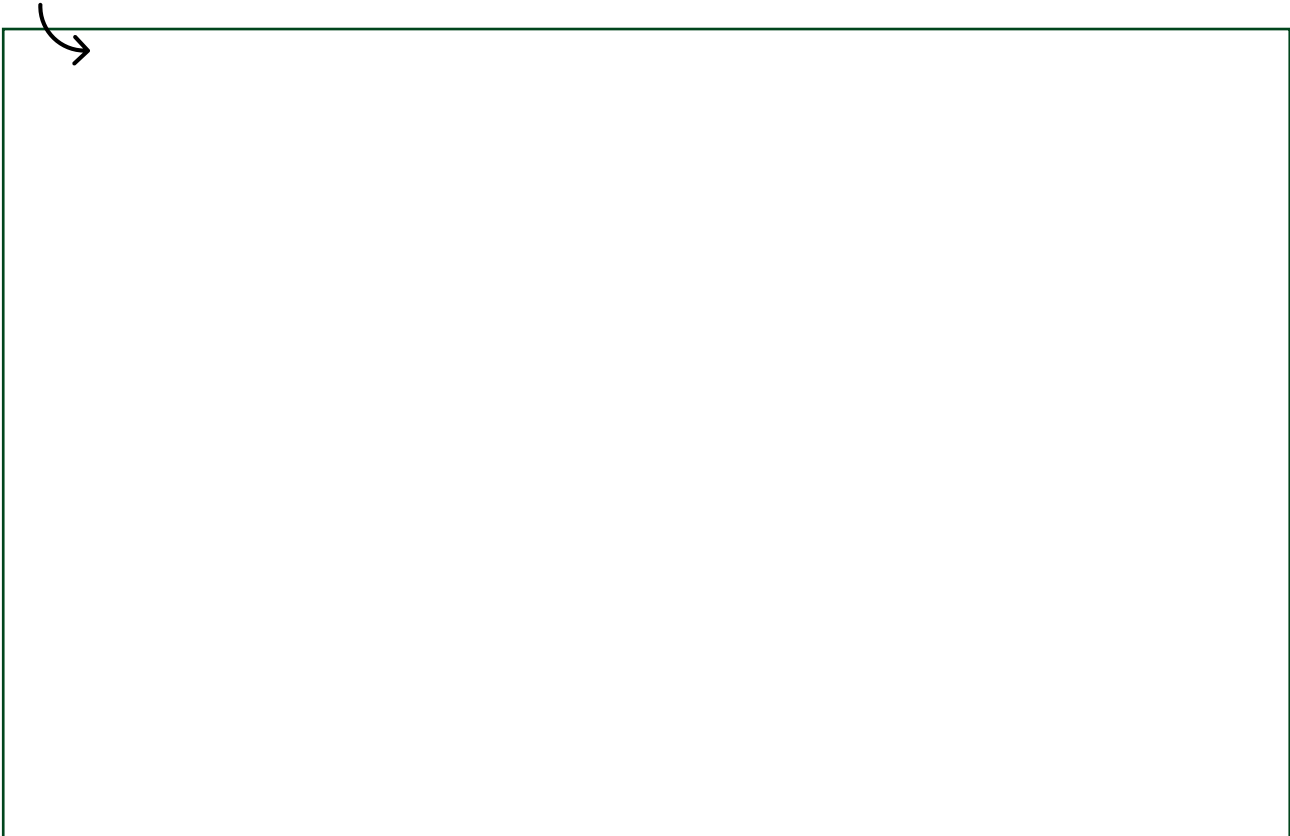
Grazing dates:

Mob size:

Back fences are moved:

Portable troughs are moved:

Click on the picture icon in the box below to insert an aerial photo of your paddock. You will need to print this page to draw on your temporary paddock features.



Draw permanent features	
Gateways	
Laneways/raceways	
Permanent water troughs	
Waterways	
Swales and gullies	
Shelter (hedges and trees)	

Draw temporary features	
Buffer zones around swales, gullies and waterways	
Direction of grazing	
Baleage placement	
Portable troughs and hoses	
Semi-permanent fences for winter	
Front grazing fence & break out fence	
Back fence	

Your Winter Grazing Plan

Complete the writing section once, each season.

Farm:

Wintering area:

Person in charge:

No. of paddocks wintered on:

Dairy supply number:

Time frame when plan will be used:

Feed	
Our stock are well fed by...	
We transition our stock well by...	
We reduce mud in the paddock by...	

Animals	
We reduce the risk of calving on crop by...	
We monitor animal health and welfare by...	
In wet weather, we meet animal welfare requirements by providing...	

Your Winter Grazing Plan

Extended periods of wet weather

Our longer-term wet weather plan will be implemented when...

Our longer-term wet weather plan is...

Documentation and Review

We will collect evidence of good management practice by...

We will review this year's wintering plan by...

Communication

We make sure everyone understands this plan by...



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