

“Be prepared... prepare as if it’s going to be your worst winter ever”

1. Paddock Selection:

- a. Slope >15° is a trigger. If you cannot safely cultivate **across** the slope should it be cultivated?
- b. Draw a map of the paddock showing:
 - i. Waterways
 - ii. Critical source areas and slopes NOT to be cultivated. *(Critical source areas are parts of the farm where water runs only when it rains providing issues of sediment runoff.)*
 - iii. Gateways
 - iv. Permanent trough locations
 - v. Portable trough locations
 - vi. Direction of cultivation
 - vii. Direction of grazing
 - viii. Baleage placement

Winter cropping and grazing plan (example)

Farm name: JONES LTD Paddock: 15 Date: 11TH OCTOBER

Step 1: Draw an outline of the paddock	Symbol or Complete (tick)	Step 3: Plan	Symbol or Complete (tick)
Paddock number	15	Direction of cultivation	←
Note map direction (e.g. North arrow)	N	Direction of grazing	→
Mark on obvious features	✓	Buffer zones	→
Direction prevailing wind	← SW	Critical source areas that are to be strategically grazed	▨
		Baleage placement	⊗ ⊗ ⊗
		Portable troughs	⊙
Critical source areas and slopes (not to be cultivated)	CSA	Back fence	✓
Waterways and wetlands	W	Front grazing fence	✓
Gateways	G	Catch fence (tomorrow's grazing fence)	✓
Troughs	T		

2. Cultivation:

- a. Cultivate across the paddock to slow the runoff speed of water during heavy rainfall events. This prevents crops being washed out if the event happens before crops become established and reduces topsoil loss.
- b. Leave a set back as a buffer to all waterways.
- c. Leave critical source areas uncultivated and fence off with a temporary fence when stock is in the paddock.

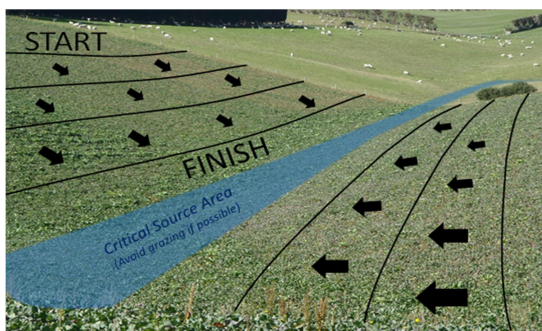


3. Paddock setup:

- a. Set up paddocks at the beginning of May.
 - i. Put baleage into the paddocks well ahead of winter assuming a good crop yield.
 - ii. Leave room close to gates so if crop yields are lower than expected more supplements can be added with minimal disruption.

4. Grazing period:

- a. Have a plan to transition cows onto your crop
 - i. Leave first 6m of paddock in pasture OR
 - ii. Plan how you are going to on / off graze them for the first week.
- b. Drainage
 - i. Carefully manage grazing areas with mole/pipe drainage networks to avoid leaching
- c. Once you know the crop yield match the herd size to the paddock
- d. Graze from the top down
- e. Back fence to reduce the herds walking. This reduces soil damage caused by treading the soil which seals the soil surface, resulting in more water moving across the soil (runoff), which increases the loss of soil and nutrients.



5. Post grazing:

- a. When soil conditions are appropriate, establish a catch crop or new pasture to use some of the urinary nitrogen left from the winter grazing period.
- b. Catch cropping has shown to be successful on free draining soils when oats or pasture can be sown within 6 weeks of the end of the grazing period.
- c. Make sure your soil is dry enough for cultivation to minimise the risk of any run off or soil loss through overland flow through your critical source areas



Winter Cropping and Grazing Plan

Farm Name:

Paddock:

Date:

Step 1: Draw an outline of the paddock	Symbol or complete (tick)
Paddock number	
Note map direction (e.g. North arrow)	
Mark on obvious features	
Direction of prevailing wind	
Step 2: Identify risk areas / paddock features	Symbol or complete (tick)
Critical source areas and slopes (not to be cultivated)	
Waterways and wetlands	
Gateways	
Permanent Troughs	

Step 3: Plan	Symbol or complete (tick)
Direction of cultivation	
Direction of grazing	
Buffer zones	
Critical source areas that are to be strategically grazed	
Baleage placement	
Portable troughs	
Back fence	
Front grazing fence	
Catch fence (tomorrow's grazing fence)	