Your Winter Grazing Plan

On the ground action this winter

Farm: _____ Person in charge: _____

Property Address: _____

Farm Size: _____ ha Wintering area: _____ ha No. of paddocks wintered on: _____

Wintering description: _____

_____

How this Winter Grazing Plan can help you?

By using this guide, you're taking the right steps to continue lifting on-farm winter grazing standards.

We are strongly encouraging all farmers and contractors to make use of this winter grazing plan.

This template is intended to help you develop a simple effective paddock plan for any break fed wintering system this winter.

This template will help identify all environmental risks and how to manage them. It will also prompt your thinking around how you will keep your cows comfortable and healthy through the winter period.

Why have a winter grazing plan?

- It creates clear expectations for everyone on the farm on how wintering is to be done
- It identifies areas for improvement
- It provides proof of good practice (to your council, your dairy company and your farm team).

An effective wintering system:

- supports good animal health and welfare
- minimises soil and nutrient loss to the environment
- Complies with regional and national regulations
- protects valuable topsoil
- complements the overall dairy farm system and the farm team's work
- has a contingency plan for periods of adverse weather.

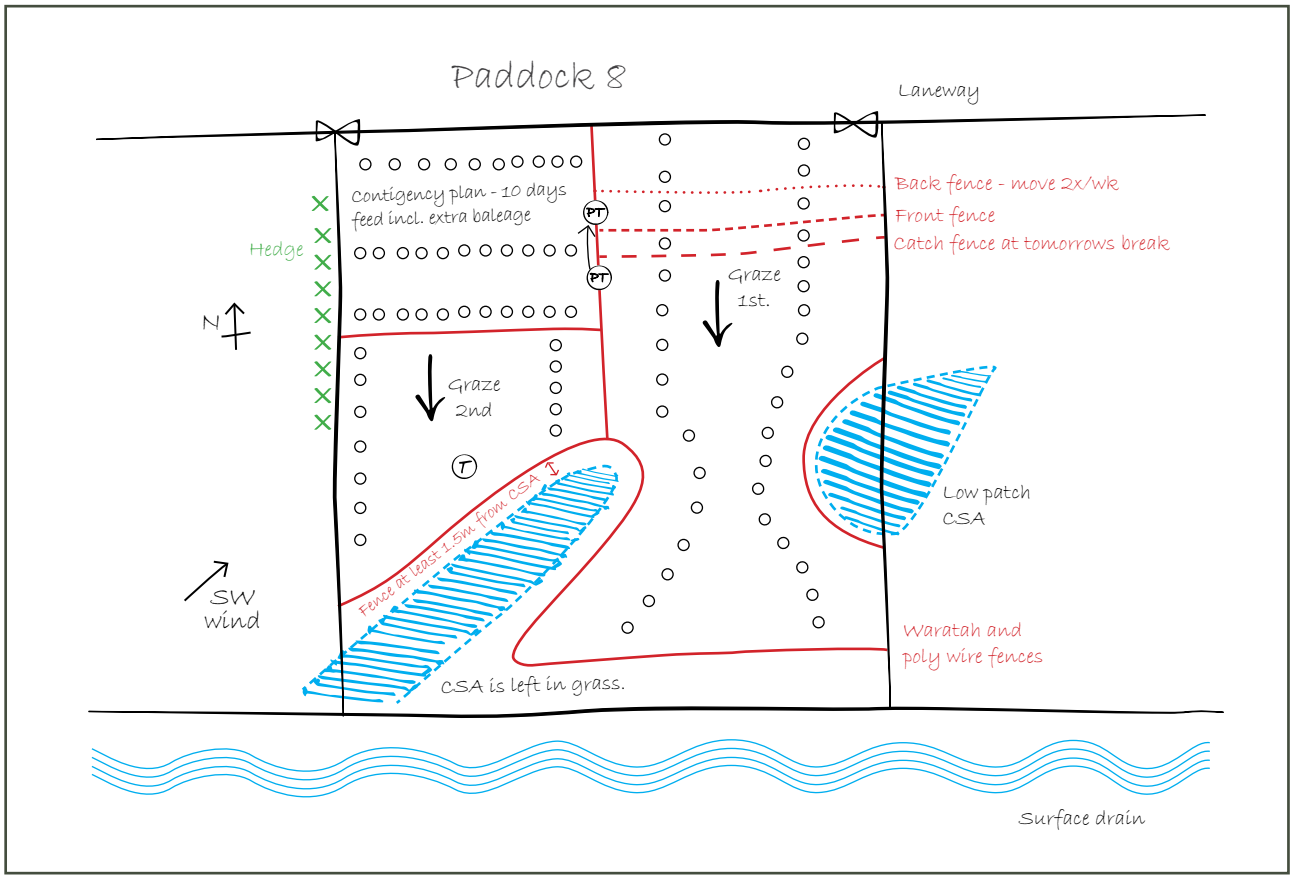
For more information see Breakfed Wintering (dairynz.co.nz/breakfed-wintering) — a guideto successful crop and pasture based wintering, including paddock plan examples and farmer tips.

If you would like a second opinion on your planning, contact your local DairyNZ team - 0800 4 - 324 7969

Paddock wintering plan – Example Paddock

Mob name and size: 100 cows, mid calvers, fat condition

Diet following transition: 10kg/day kale and 4kg/day baleage (8m crop and 2 bales)



Step 1: Draw an outline of the paddock	Symbol or Complete (tick)
Note map direction (e.g. North arrow)	N
Mark on obvious features (eg hills)	
Direction prevailing wind	SW

Step 2: Identify risk areas/ paddock features	Symbol or Complete (tick)
Critical Source Areas and wet areas	
Areas of slope	
Waterways and wetlands	
Gateways	
Permanent water troughs	T
Shelter	

Step 3: Grazing plan	Symbol or Complete (tick)
Semi-permanent fences for winter	
Direction of grazing	
Buffer zones to critical source areas/ waterways	
Baleage placement	
Portable troughs and hoses	PT
Back fence	
Front grazing fence	
Break out fence	

Step 4: Day to day management	
Cows will be fed	Daily in the morning and checked each afternoon
Back fences will be moved	2x/wk
Portable troughs will be moved	2x/wk with the back fence

Step 5: Executing your paddock plan	
Our transition plan for our stock is…	Transition over 7 days. There is extra baleage in the first weeks' breaks. 1st day will be 4 bales and 5m crop. Cows will be monitored each day for mastitis, lameness, poor gut transition and general poor health. Any animal that does not adapt well will be drafted out and treated if appropriate
We reduce mud in the paddock by…	Grazing direction, fencing off wet areas, baleage and water troughs on high areas and small mob sizes
We monitor animal health and welfare by…	During the morning shift, we will keep an eye on any cows who are slow to come up to feed or are by themselves in the paddock. Monitor the herd during afternoon check – we want to see lying hollows, at least a third of the herd lying down and some feed left in the ring feeders.
We reduce the risk of calving/lambing on crop by…	All cows have been date scanned. Mobs split by calving date and BCS. Cows will be transitioned off crop 10-14 days before their due date. We will look every day for signs of animals springing up and any animals identified will immediately be taken off crop.
We ensure our stock are well fed by…	A feed budget is done prior to the start of winter. We update the budget in late June to ensure we will have enough crop for the winter. We have ten days contingency feed in the budget for wet/windy weather. We also spray paint some baleage bales with dates showing the expected grazing dates. The herd will be checked each afternoon to ensure that there is 1/3 of each baleage bale left and that the herd are content. If not, or if wet/windy weather is forecast, we give the cows extra feed.
We ensure everyone understands this plan by…	Whole team will set up paddock together using this map as a guide. The team will get a refresher on how to identify sick cows, when to implement plans, and the targets of our wintering system.

Step 6: Our plan for wet weather and poor soil conditions	
Our wet weather plan will be implemented….	As per paddock 5 plan - If there is a period of cold wet and windy weather forecast.
Our wet weather and poor soil conditions plan is…	Cows will be offered more feed during the afternoon check to ensure they are content and that they have access to a drier lying surface at the feed face.

Step 7: Adverse event plan	
We will implement our adverse plan when…	There has been, or is going to be a storm event, or, if it is too wet for the cows to lie comfortably (there are no lying hollows).
Our adverse event plan requires us to…	We will move the cows to the North West area of the paddock which is easy to access from the laneway. Extra hay and baleage will be fed to the herd and straw can be spread for bedding if needed.
We will ensure animal welfare requirements continue to be met by…	Shelter: Hedge along west of paddock Lying time: High and dry area of the paddock Access to water: Portable trough can be set up quickly Feeding: Ad lib feed will be made available (hay and baleage).

Step 8: Documentation and review	
The evidence we have to show we are following good management practice includes….	We will take photos periodically – before, during and after grazing the paddock. This will show the use of back fences, good buffers, portable troughs and show healthy content well fed cows.
Our plan to review this winter's wintering plan is…	Throughout the winter we will discuss ways to improve our practices. At the end of winter, we will update our paddock plan diagram with all our ideas and use this to help with next winter's planning.

Paddock wintering plan for paddock number _____

Mob name and size: _____

Diet following transition: _____

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Describe below your **master plan** for managing environmental and animal welfare risks.

Step 5: Executing your paddock plan	
Our transition plan for our stock is...	
We reduce mud in the paddock by...	
We monitor animal health and welfare by...	
We reduce the risk of calving/lambing on crop by...	
We ensure our stock are well fed by...	
We ensure everyone understands this plan by...	

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