

Smarter wintering in Otago starts in spring

Winter cropping provides an important source of livestock feed between May and September. Careful planning of cultivation and sowing can help prevent issues later.

Good winter grazing management:

- supports animal health and welfare
- protects topsoil
- reduces loss of sediment, nutrients, and *E. coli* to waterways
- ensures you have a contingency plan for bad weather.

Focusing on good management practice can help you reduce risks no matter what rules are in place. This applies to all stock types.





Examples of good critical source area (CSA) protection



Spring checklist

- **Pick the right paddocks**
 - Stay away from areas prone to poor drainage, pugging, and flooding.
 - Avoid steep slopes and mitigate risks from cultivating on slopes, i.e. bigger buffer zones.
 - Ensure stock water can be provided.
 - Ensure animals can access shelter and resting areas away from mud in wet weather.
- **Plan with your farm team, including contractors**
- **Identify buffers and critical source areas like swales and gullies**

Walking paddocks during rain helps identify ponding and risk areas.
- **Protect critical source areas**
 - Discuss with contractors and mark CSAs if needed.
 - Don't spray or cultivate. Leave them in grass.
- **Leave at least a 5m grass buffer from streams or drains**
- **Plan cultivation around how you will strategically graze in winter**
- **Get your written winter grazing plan done early and share it with the team**
 - Ensures clear expectations for everyone on farm.
 - Provides proof of good practice.
- **Get support or advice if uncertain**

See back page for industry support.

Critical source areas (CSAs) are parts of the paddock that can channel overland flow directly to waterways, e.g. gullies, swales, very wet areas, spring heads, waterway crossings, stock camps and vehicle access routes.

Otago contacts for free support and advice:

- On Farm Support (MPI) 0800 70 71 33 | OtagoOFS@mpi.govt.nz
- Beef + Lamb New Zealand 0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352) | enquiries@beeflambnz.com
- DairyNZ 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969) | info@dairynz.co.nz
Dairy farmers can also contact their milk company for information. Fonterra Farm Source 027 703 6550
- Deer Industry NZ 04 473 4500 | info@deernz.org
- Federated Farmers 0800 327 646 | 0800@fedfarm.org.nz
- Otago Regional Council Catchments Team 0800 474 082 | catchments@orc.govt.nz

OR contact your local catchment group. Find out who it is by calling Otago Catchment Community on 027 418 3414 | admin@otagocatchments.co.nz

If you see issues of concern, please contact:

- Federated Farmers for confidential industry support 0800 327 646
- MPI for animal welfare concerns 0800 00 83 33
- ORC Pollution Hotline to report air, land or water pollution 0800 800 033

QR codes for further information about wintering:

Open your smartphone camera, point it at the QR code, and tap the link that appears.



Beef + Lamb
New Zealand
beeflambnz.com



Deer Industry NZ
deernz.org



MPI
mpi.govt.nz



DairyNZ
dairynz.co.nz



Otago Regional
Council
orc.govt.nz

Finding it
tough?

The Otago Rural Support Trust is here to help. Call 0800 787 254
or www.rural-support.org.nz/Regions/South-Island/Otago

 Rural Support