

Do Winter Grazing Rules apply to my property?

Winter Grazing rules apply to your property if:

1. You graze cattle on brassicas or root vegetables (i.e. fodder beet) between 1 May and 30 September (Matrix/Land and Water Regional Plan Winter Feed); and/or
2. You graze livestock (sheep, cattle, deer etc..) on any annual forage crop (non- pasture crop that isn't to be harvested later) at any time in the period 1 May to 30 September (Significant Change/National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Winter Feed).



Please note where both winter feed controls apply, the most restrictive parameter typically takes precedence.

Maximum Winter Feed Area

ALIL shareholders can find their maximum allowed winter feed areas within their Farm Environment Plan (table can be found on Page 2 or 3) or Property Parameter Report.

Who Controls Winter Grazing?

Both ALIL and ECan have Winter grazing rules which must be complied with.

When is a Winter Grazing Farm Activity Variation Application (FAVA) required from ALIL?

A FAVA is required if you plan to exceed either of the maximum winter feed areas for the property. A Property is any contiguous area of land.

It is crucial to ALIL's discharge consent that these areas are complied with. If you are increasing your maximum allowed winter feed area, ALIL approval is required **prior** to the activity being undertaken.

You may also require a National Environmental Standards (NES) consent from Environment Canterbury (ECan) to increase winter feed area.

When is NES Consent Required?

A resource consent for winter grazing on your property is required if you answer **NO** to any of these questions:

- Was there intensive winter grazing carried out on your farm between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2019?
- Is the total area used for intensive winter grazing for any season no more than the maximum area used between the above dates?

- Does the total area of intensive winter grazing on your farm meet the following limits:
 - o For a farm 500ha or less, the maximum area of intensive winter grazing is 50ha?
 - o For a farm larger than 500ha, is the maximum area of intensive winter grazing 10% of the property size?
- Is the slope of land under winter crop 10 degrees or less measured over any 20m distance?
- Are all critical source areas within or nearby the winter grazing protected, ungrazed, uncultivated and unharvested over the winter grazing months?
- Are livestock kept at least five metres away from the bed of any river, lake, wetlands or drain regardless of if there is water present at the time?
- Will you take all reasonably practicable steps to minimise adverse effects from pugging and ensure vegetation is established as ground cover over the whole area of that land as soon as practicable after grazing?

ALIL Global Winter Grazing Consent

ALIL has lodged a resource consent application with Environment Canterbury for **ALL** properties that have intensive winter grazing. This will cover the consent requirement for property's that have over 50 hectares of intensive winter grazing.

Properties will need to ensure they have a Winter Grazing Plan in place that outlines how risks on farm are managed. Industry groups such as DairyNZ and Beef and Lamb have templates that can be filled out or used to develop your own plan.

The ALIL Global consent will not cover Properties that have increased their area of intensive winter grazing since the reference period (1 July 2014 and 30 June 2019).

ECan Flyovers

For the 2023 winter, Environment Canterbury conducted flyovers over the Ashburton District for the purposes of education. This consisted of two flyovers, one in May and one in July. Overall, the flyover's showed farmers were taking appropriate practices to manage their winter grazing effectively and ECan were very positive with what they saw.

ECan have indicated that the flyovers will be rolled out every year as part of compliance monitoring. Communications will be provided when this occurs. Next winter the flights will move from education focus to enforcement where necessary.

Winter Grazing Plans Required

Every property with winter grazing requires a winter grazing plan. These plans need to set out:

- Where winter grazing will occur (this includes a detailed map or drawing).
- How winter grazing will be managed day to day.
- Identify risks and describe how these are reduced. Risks may include critical source areas, waterways, and/or areas of slope.
- Identify paddock features on map or drawing. This may include gateways, permanent water troughs and/or shelter.
- Illustrate how the crop will be grazed. This may include identifying break fences, direction of grazing, buffer zones, baleage placement, portable troughs and hoses, back fence, front grazing fence and/or break out fence.

- Stock feed allocation and animal welfare practices
- Management during adverse weather events

Winter Grazing Plans should be discussed and communicated with all responsible parties (e.g. property owner, farm manager, team, grazier).

Grazing near Critical Source Areas or Waterways

Buffers

A five-metre buffer is required from areas of grazed forage crops and rivers, lakes, wetlands or drains. This buffer is regardless of whether they contain water or not.

Stockwater races are excluded from the five-metre buffer but should still be managed to reduce the risk of nutrient and sediment from entering the race. Please also ensure you have a winter grazing plan in place that illustrates how the risk is reduced.



Critical Source Areas

Critical Source Areas include gullies, swales, or depressions that:

- Accumulate runoff from adjacent land; and
- Delivers or has the potential to deliver, one or more contaminants to one or more rivers, lakes, wetlands, or drains, or their beds (regardless of whether there is any water in them at the time).

These areas cannot be grazed by stock within a winter crop area from 1 May to 30 September. Vegetation cover must be maintained in Critical Source Areas within a winter crop area.

Tips for Good Practice Winter Grazing

- ✓ Plan for adverse weather
- ✓ Identify environmental risks that may result in nutrient leaching or run-off and plan how these will be mitigated.
- ✓ Ensure sufficient and appropriate feed is on hand for stock.
- ✓ Ensure animal welfare is at the forefront of management decisions.
- ✓ Protecting topsoil by minimising pugging.
- ✓ Ensure animal health plans are in place to prevent illness or injury.
- ✓ Ensure crops/pasture following winter grazed crops are sown as soon as practically possible.

Helpful Resources

- DairyNZ website <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/>
- Beef & Lamb website <https://beeflambnz.com/>
- Environment Canterbury website <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/>
- Ministry for the Environment website <https://environment.govt.nz/>
- Ministry for Primary Industries website <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/>

If you have any other questions, please contact Sarah Hayman, 027 2966 444 or sarah@alil.co.nz

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