

# Are you aware of the rules relating to intensive winter grazing?

Environment Canterbury has implemented strict land use rules requiring farmers to manage a range of environmental issues, including those caused by intensive winter grazing.

## > **Plan ahead for intensive winter grazing**

You are expected to plan well ahead for where and how you're going to carry out intensive winter grazing on your farm. This is to ensure any environmental risks associated with intensive winter grazing are identified and managed to industry-agreed GMP. It can be as simple as completing a template or including a basic plan within your FEP.

## > **Keep stock out of the beds of rivers, lakes and wetlands**

Cattle and deer that are break-fed on winter feed crops, pigs and all dairy cows are not able to access the bed of a river, lake or wetland without a resource consent. The rules also prevent other stock from causing pugging or sediment loss to water where there is a change in water quality or clarity.

## > **Discharges of sediment or drainage water**

All farmers are required to implement good management practices on their farm. Some farmers require a farming land use consent and an FEP that needs to be regularly audited if their intensive winter grazing area exceeds plan limits.

## > **Farming land use consents**

Nutrient rules require all farmers to implement good management practices on their farm. Some farmers require a farming land use consent and an FEP that needs to be regularly audited if their intensive winter grazing area exceeds plan limits.

To check what rules apply to your farm get in touch or visit [www.ecan.govt.nz/farmers-hub](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/farmers-hub)

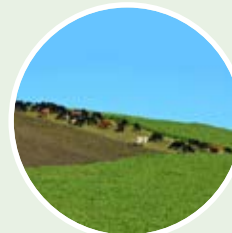
## Reduce sediment and phosphorous loss by up to 80%



Select paddocks wisely



Buffer next to Critical Source Areas

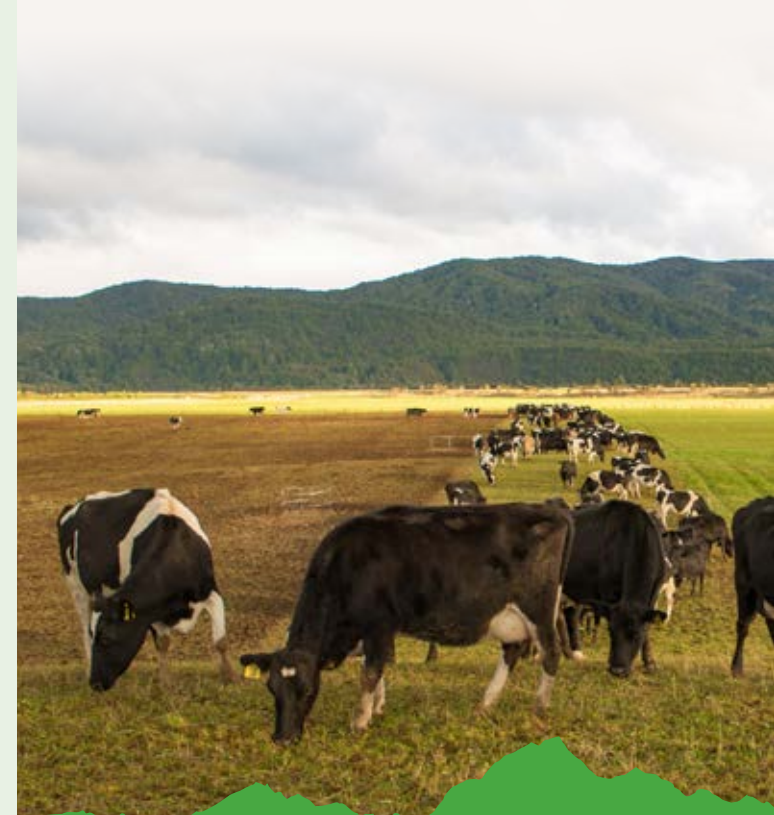


Graze strategically

## We can help

For resources and guidelines visit [www.ecan.govt.nz/farmers-hub](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/farmers-hub)  
email [ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz)  
or call 0800 324 636 and ask to speak to a Land Management Advisor

E21/7557



# Better intensive winter grazing

to improve water quality

# Protect your waterways while practising intensive winter grazing

Canterbury's varying soil types and topography can make farming areas high risk for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loss into our waterways. This can lead to poor water quality.

Good intensive winter grazing practices can help reduce run-off and also help with better soil productivity.



Research undertaken by AgResearch and funded by the Pastoral 21 programme has shown that good intensive winter grazing can reduce sediment and phosphorus losses in run-off by up to 80%



Plant & Food Research scientists have found yield benefits for subsequent crops in soil where pugging does not occur

Strategic intensive winter grazing is a low cost good management practice that should be part of your Farm Environment Plan. Get in touch with an Environment Canterbury Land Management Advisor if you need help (contact details overleaf).



Photo: This paddock has large grass buffers around its CSA to help protect the waterway.

## What is a Critical Source Area?

Critical Source Areas (CSAs) are small, low-lying parts of farms, such as gullies and swales, where surface run-off accumulates in high concentration.

## Follow these steps to graze better

### > STEP 1

#### Select your paddock wisely

- > Consider the environmental risks of each paddock and plan appropriate ways to avoid or manage these risks
- > Choose flatter paddocks where possible - soil erosion rates increase with a steeper slope
- > Avoid practices that lead to pugging
- > Choose paddocks where you can fence any Critical Source Areas (CSAs) such as streams, gullies, tile drains and swales
- > Have other options if the paddock is too wet to graze eg. run-off paddock, feed pad, lift and carry.

### > STEP 2

#### Buffer next to Critical Source Areas

- > Protect any CSAs: fence, leave grassed and have a generous ungrazed riparian strip between the crop and wet area
- > Recommended buffer distances can vary according to paddock topography but farmers should allow 5 metres between CSA and stock as a minimum.

### > STEP 3

#### Graze strategically

- > Graze down towards a CSA - this leaves vegetation between bare ground and the CSA, reducing run-off
- > Back-fence once crop has been eaten if practical
- > Where soil conditions allow, sow a cool-tolerant catch crop, such as oats, as soon as possible after grazing. This soaks up nutrients from the soil and avoids them being leached into waterways
- > In wet conditions, practice on/off grazing to minimise pugging damage to the soil.



Strategically grazed catchment