

WINTER GRAZING CHEAT SHEET

Before You Start Check List

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| ✓ Are you able to access the site during extreme weather conditions for proper animal care and monitoring? | ✓ Is there a water source in place if snow conditions are not adequate? |
| ✓ If unfavourable grazing conditions develop, do you have a backup plan to provide an alternative feed source? | ✓ Is natural or portable wind shelter available? |

Management Considerations

- Feed testing is critical.
 - LARA assists producers with feed testing.
 - Samples are shipped on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month.
 - Results take approximately 10-15 business days.
- Always have an emergency feed supply.
- Limit available forage to a few days at a time to maintain a level plane of nutrition.
- Ensure proper energy needs are being met, particularly when managing calves, young cows, thin cows and pairs.
- If natural protection from the wind and elements is not available, provide portable windbreak fences.
- Have a water supply available for use on short notice if snow conditions deteriorate.

Tips and Tricks for Bale Grazing



- When you're choosing a bale grazing site, think about where water will flow during spring melt.



- Sloping pastures may mean runoff into streams or ponds.



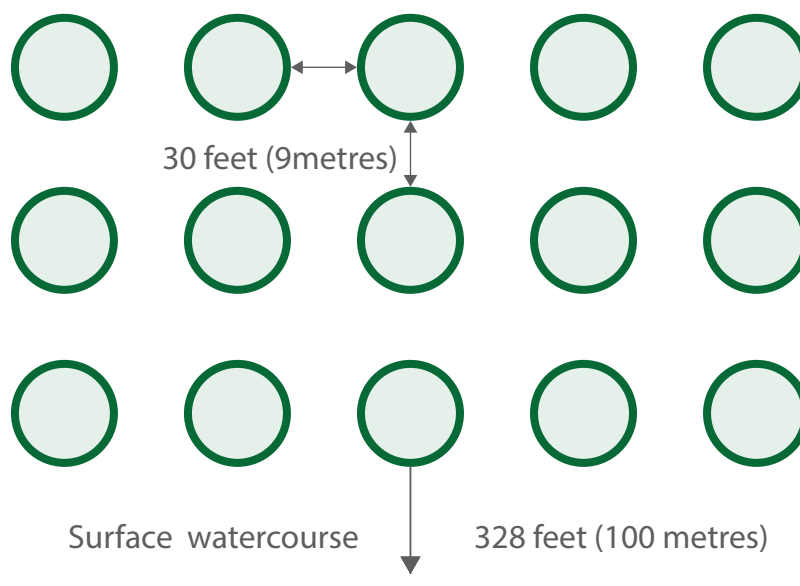
- Remove twine from the bales in the fall.



- Place bales with plastic twine on their ends, so the twine can be easily removed in the fall before feeding.

Tips and Tricks for Bale Grazing

- Place bales on a grid of 40ft centres, leaving 30ft (9m) of space between bales, to allow uniform manure nutrient coverage.
- In Canada, the bale grazing area must be 328 feet (100 metres) from a surface watercourse, sinkhole, spring or well. This is to protect waterways from nutrient bearing runoff.



- An electric fence is a wonderful tool to help manage bale grazing. Place the wire between the rows to ease the animals' movement for the next feeding. If the ground is too hard to pound in fence posts or fiberglass rods, simply stick them into the bales.



Tips and Tricks for Corn Grazing



- Limit cows to 3-4 days of feed. Cattle will inevitably eat the best part of the plant first, which is the cob. Managing the amount of feed accessible will help with issues such as acidosis.
- Strip grazing using electric fencing provides a more uniform nutrient intake, reducing the risk of acidosis caused by cattle only eating high energy cobs. Utilization per acre is also improved.
- Grazing standing corn vs swathed corn can help protect cattle from the elements.
- Test feed and provide supplements if needed.
- Choosing the right variety of corn is very important to ensure cattle don't experience grain overload or acidosis.
- Select an early-maturing variety that will match the Corn Heat Units (CHU) rating for your area to increase the chance of a high-yielding, high-quality corn crop.



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