

Sheep Grazing Infrastructure Guide

Advantages of a Paddock System

- More control over grazing management.
- Increase grass utilisation.
- Improve sward quality.
- Increase grass grown per hectare.
- Increase daily live-weight gain.
- Allows surplus grass to be taken out resulting in top quality silage.
- Increase stocking rate.
- More targeted fertiliser programme.
- Provide options for grazing rotations in the spring and closing ground in the autumn.



Key Steps

Map



Paddock Size



Fencing



Water Troughs



Strip Grazing

- Set up a grazing block to feed your sheep for a maximum of 3 days.
- Put up a back-fence when moving sheep on to the next block.
- Sheep get fresh grass while regrowth occurs on grazed block.
- Sheep should graze down to (3.5-4cm ewes) (5.5-6cm lambs post weaning) before moving them on.
- Sheep should be entering grass covers of 8cm grass.



Extend the grazing season: Increase Profit!

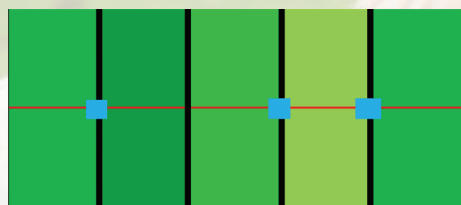
1. Farm Map

1. Set up a paddock system on the farm and measure the area of each paddock.
2. Number each paddock on the farm.
3. Record the final layout on an accurate map.
4. Print copies and hang up.

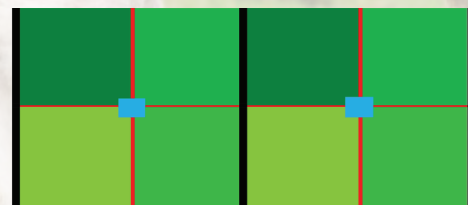


2. Paddock Size

1. 5 permanent paddocks per group.
2. Ability to divide into 10 temporary divisions per group.
3. 3 days grazing per division
4. 21 day rotation mid-season.
5. 40 day rotation in Spring and Autumn.
6. Suggested paddock size per 100 ewes = 2ha.
7. Plan to temporary divide into 1 ha divisions for main grazing season.



3 drinkers located centrally to service up to 4 divisions each.



1 drinker located in the centre to service 4 divisions.

3. Fencing

1. Keep it simple by using temporary fences.
2. Place one temporary post every 8m.
3. Invest in reels and polywire.
4. Select electric fencer to meet your requirements.
5. Be flexible. Permanent fences can replace temporary divisions in time.

Battery fencer options for 3 wire fences

Output Joule	Distance (km)	Earthing Rods
1	1	1
2	2	1



4. Water

1. Place drinkers in central location where possible
2. Main issues pipe size/ trough/ballcock
3. Flexible troughs and piping an option
4. Mobile water also an option

