

Rotational Grazing at Property Scale

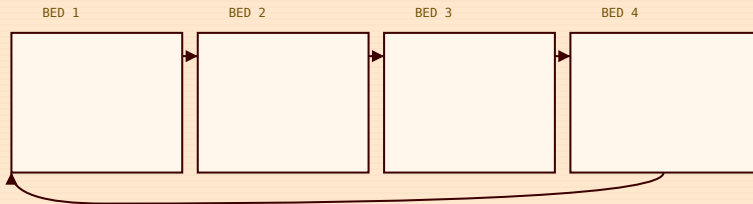
Move stock systematically to protect and improve pasture

DIFFICULTY	Moderate
TYPE	Ongoing management practice
TIME	Planning time, then ongoing daily/weekly moves

 DIFFICULTY Moderate	 TIME Ongoing	 COST Low-moderate (fencing/water)	 BEST SEASON Year-round, adjusted seasonally	 FREQUENCY Stock moved every few days to weeks
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01 Graze, rest, repeat

Rather than set-stocking one large paddock continuously, rotational grazing moves animals through smaller paddocks in sequence — each area gets a rest period to recover before being grazed again.



02 What you'll need

- Multiple paddocks or the ability to subdivide with temporary/permanent fencing
- Reliable water access in each paddock or grazing cell
- A grazing plan or simple record of what was grazed when
- Enough paddocks to allow a rest period, not just two areas swapped back and forth too quickly

03 Method

1. Divide grazing land into multiple paddocks or cells, sized to your stock numbers and pasture growth rate.
2. Ensure reliable water access in each paddock, either permanently or via portable troughs.
3. Move stock on a schedule based on pasture recovery, not a fixed calendar — faster in strong growth periods, slower when growth is slow.
4. Allow rest — pasture needs time to regrow substantially, not just a token few days, before being regrazed.
5. Keep simple records of grazing dates per paddock to track and refine your rotation over time.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Pasture quality declining despite rotation** — rest periods may be too short; extend the cycle, particularly in slower growth seasons.
- **Overgrazing in some paddocks** — check stocking density against paddock size and current pasture growth rate, which varies through the year.
- **Water access limiting rotation options** — this is a common practical constraint; portable trough systems can open up rotation options limited by fixed water points.
- **Too few paddocks for a meaningful rest period** — even simple subdivision with temporary electric fencing can create more rotation options than a single large paddock.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	A year-round practice, with rotation speed adjusted to the season's pasture growth rate.
DURATION	An ongoing management system rather than a single task — ideally refined over multiple seasons.
MAINTENANCE	Regular stock moves (days to weeks depending on paddock size and growth) and periodic review of the overall rotation plan.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	Consistently improving pasture density and diversity over time, rather than the bare, patchy ground typical of set-stocked, continuously grazed paddocks.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Building Healthy Soil

Erosion Control

Heavy-Duty Livestock Fencing

COMMON MISTAKES

Rotating on a fixed calendar rather than actual pasture recovery

Under-resting paddocks, effectively continuous grazing with extra steps

PRO TIP

Even a simple two- or three-paddock rotation with temporary electric fencing meaningfully outperforms continuous single-paddock grazing — you don't need an elaborate system to see benefit.