

# CATTLE AND SHEEP Extending the Grazing Season

Rising temperatures due to climate change will lead to a longer growing season and shorter, milder winters. While many risks are associated with these impacts, there are also possible benefits if adaptive management techniques are put in place.

## 60% - 80%

The amount of production costs attributable to overwintering livestock in Atlantic Canada

Extending the period in which livestock can graze is a way to reduce these costs with the added benefit of soil health and fertility improvements. To capitalize on this effectively, an extended grazing plan catered to your operation needs to be in place to maximize benefits and ensure pasture and livestock well-being.

## Options for extending the grazing season

Controlled grazing

Stockpile extra forage

Grazing annual crops

Grazing cover crops

Bale grazing

Early weaning

## Key Climate Benefit:

**Frost events occurring later in fall and earlier in spring could extend the grazing season, leading to:**

Reduced feed, yardage, and labour costs

Reduced reliance on stored feeds

Reduced need for hauling manure, bales, bedding

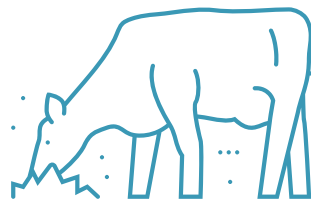
Improve soil health and fertility through manure

**When planning for extended grazing, choose an area that has:**

Well-draining soil

Established sod or crops that can support livestock even in wet conditions

Only graze soft or poorly drained areas when soil is sufficiently frozen



## New challenges:

While we may see benefits like an extended grazing season, warmer shoulder season temperatures and increased precipitation will increase the risk of mud and field damage in soft, wet-prone areas due to a lack of frozen ground.

**Fall and Winter  
Grazing Strategies  
for Eastern Canada**



**Perennia  
Pasture  
Manual**

