

Renewal checklist

Pasture renewal is not simple. Use this list to make sure you cover every step needed for a successful result.

The key is to do all these things well. In a good season you may get away with shortcuts in technique, but in poor climatic conditions shortcuts will be a liability.

✓	Checklist
	Quantify your goals: What do you want to achieve (e.g. renew pasture, fill in feed gap)?
	Identify under-performing paddocks and decide on right amount of renewal for the farm (5%? 10%? 20% of the farm?).
	Identify, and wherever possible rectify, causes of poor performance.
	Soil test (ideally 6-12 months in advance) and correct soil fertility
	Make a timeline of steps through to sowing date.
	If relying on a contractor, book them in early.
	Check for pests (e.g. grass grub, slugs and ASW).
	Choose appropriate renewal method.
	Identify weeds & spray out with suitable herbicide(s) before cultivating or direct drilling. If pest levels are high, add insecticide to the spray mix.
	If cultivating, prepare a good seed bed (firm and level).
	Choose high quality cultivars and seed mixes that suit your farm system.
	Control pests - use treated seed and insecticide if required.
	Choose correct sowing rate and technique.
	Sow seed carefully, at right depth (clover seed $\leq 10\text{mm}$).
	Apply slug bait if needed.
	Control weeds in early establishment.
	Graze early to promote tillering, use 'pluck test' to determine when pasture is ready for first grazing.