

The gumboot scoring method for wintering paddocks

Suggested actions to ensure lying time and feed requirements are not compromised

GUMBOOT SCORE	Paddock Characteristic		Suggested actions to ensure lying time and feed requirements are not compromised	
			Wet and weather clearing	Wet and weather deteriorating
1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No water pooling Soil is firm Cows can lie down Boot imprint dry and sides remain formed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions required. Feed intake and lying time will not be restricted at gumboot score 1
2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No water pooling Soil is sticky Boot imprint wet, may be sticky and less defined Cows may lie down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions required <p>Crop Paddocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider giving access to drier areas behind the backfence Consider feeding extra crop/supplement Consider spreading straw for drier lying surface <p>Grass Paddocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider giving access to drier areas behind the backfence or increase the daily area allocation Consider feeding extra supplement Consider spreading straw for drier lying surface
3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water pooling Soil is liquified Boot imprint disappears Cows will not lie down 	<p>Crop Paddocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider giving access to drier areas behind the backfence Feed extra crop/supplement Spread straw for drier lying surface <p>Grass Paddocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove back fence or give double break size area (need to shift bales) Feed extra supplement Spread straw for drier lying surface <p>All paddocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cows should be given access to in-paddock breakout areas or removed from the paddock to a grass paddock or standoff area/facility Feed additional supplement