Evaluating Feed Types: Before and After Grazing

**Before Grazing**

- **A**
  - Grown in spring and summer decreased risk of soil damage from grazing.
  - Is a legume, so will fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and increase the levels of nitrogen in the soil. Can help future plant growth and/or increase leaching.
  - Tap roots can help with water infiltration.

- **B**
  - Wind can pick up soil and dry it out when it is not protected by plants.
  - Unstable soil from removal of swede bulbs.
  - Evapotranspiration.

- **C**
  - Plants will slow down water run-off and capture soil sediment before it enters waterways.
  - Plantain decreases leaching.


**After Grazing**

- **D**
  - Plants can be grazed multiple times over late spring and summer. Plants are still alive and growing so will absorb CO₂ and nitrogen.
  - Roots remain which protect soil from rain, wind and soil damage like pugging.
  - Clover naturally provides nitrogen for itself and other plants for growth. Too much clover leads to increased ponding.

- **E**
  - Evapotranspiration.
  - Potential increased in pugging from unstable soil.
  - Increased soil leaching.
  - Increased organic matter from plants being trampled into the soil.

- **F**
  - Plants are still alive and growing so will absorb CO₂ and nitrogen.
  - Old leaves will still die off and add organic matter and support soil biodiversity.
  - Sometimes paddocks are topped (mowed) after stock to get the grass growth consistent for future grazing. This increases emissions.