

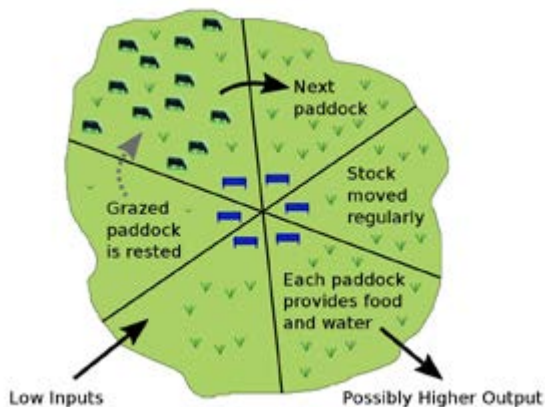


## 8 Pasture Rotation

### *Caring for the environment*

With good management, less intensive systems of pig production are likely to be less polluting. Additionally, the natural rooting behaviour of a pig can be very damaging to the pasture. Good pasture management and rotation are bringing benefits for health, the environment and animal welfare.

Free-range systems can produce pollution problems. Where high densities of pigs are kept outside, their wastes can pollute local watercourses. This is a particular problem in nitrogen sensitive zones where groundwater can be contaminated. Part of the problem is that pigs can destroy the vegetation. As a result, nutrients mineralized in the soil can leach away rather than being absorbed by plant roots.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotational\\_grazing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotational_grazing)

In free-range systems, wastes are returned directly to the soil where they can be recycled by natural systems. With careful rotation, it might be possible to maintain grass-cover on the paddocks.

Pasture rotation is an alternative approach applied in free-range and organic systems in order to control diseases. When animals are moved onto new pasture each year, this can break the life cycle of the organism causing a disease, so that the build up of a disease in one area does not occur.

[https://www.ciwf.org.uk/  
media/5492194/gap\\_pig\\_book\\_full.pdf](https://www.ciwf.org.uk/media/5492194/gap_pig_book_full.pdf)