

Fact sheet

Feedlots and Feedpads

Heavily stocking an area to the extent that grass cover is lost can lead to contaminants and nutrients leaching into ground water and/ or running off into surface water.

This flyer summarises the rules that apply to landowners and sets out Hawke's Bay Regional Council's expectations and approach to compliance.

Feedlot

The Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan describes a feedlot as an area of land on which animals are kept and fed, for more than 15 days in any 30-day period, where the stocking density or feedlot structure, such as a concrete pad, precludes the maintenance of pasture or ground cover.

Strip grazing could be included under this definition if not managed appropriately.

Feedpad

A feedpad is an area of land to which animals are brought for supplementary feeding on a regular basis, where the stocking density or feedpad structure precludes the maintenance of pasture or groundcover.



Key Points

Rules around feedlots already exist.

- Hawke's Bay Regional Council wants to ensure that all feedlot and feedpad operators comply with the rules.
- Landowners who can't comply with the 'permitted activity' aspect of the rules will require a resource consent BEFORE they start winter operations.
- If you are not sure what to do, contact Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Relevant rules

Operating a feedlot or feedpad is a permitted activity as long as the activity complies with relevant rules in the Regional Resource Management Plan.

Rule 5: Feedlots and Feedpads:

- a) The land used for the feedlot or feedpad shall be managed in a manner that prevents any seepage of contaminants into groundwater.
- b) The feedlot or feedpad shall be located no less than 20 metres from any surface water body.
- c) The feedlot or feedpad shall be located no less than:
 - i) 150 metres from a residential building or any other building being part of a place of assembly on another site
 - ii) 50 metres from a property boundary, and
 - iii) 20 metres from a public road.
- d) Runoff from the surrounding catchment area is prevented from entering the feedlot or feedpad.
- e) The feedpad or feedlot is not located in a Source Protection Zone

Rule 5 footnote: At any time, Council may request information from the operator of a feedlot or feedpad to confirm compliance with Rule 5a.

Rule 14 Animal effluent

Applies if liquid animal effluent is collected and then discharged to land, ie if runoff from the feedlot or feedpad is captured or collected into a storage facility such as a pond. The same requirements as dairy shed effluent then apply, ie a lined pond with sufficient storage is required with the effluent spread evenly to land when soil conditions allow. A resource consent is required for activities of this nature.

Rule 49 Discharges to land that may enter water

May also apply.

Rule 49e states there shall be no surface ponding in the area of discharge, or runoff of any contaminant into a surface water body as a result of the discharge.

Rules in the Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan can be found at:
hbrc.govt.nz, keyword: #RRMP
and go to Chapter 6.

Scrapings

Some operators scrape the feedlot or feedpad at the end of the season. Best practice is to spread scrapings at the time or store them on an impervious pad.

Will I need a Resource consent?

A resource consent is needed if the above rules cannot be complied with. The Regional Council expects that, if

a consent is required, it will be applied for in advance of an operation commencing.

A resource consent is likely to have conditions that require surface runoff to be avoided or controlled. Unless the feedpad or feedlot is on an impervious pad, the consent may require three or more monitoring bores to be installed.

This will allow the impact of the feedlot on groundwater to be monitored. Monthly sampling of groundwater in those bores is likely to be required (at least for the first 2- 4 years) to enable both the landowner and the Regional Council to gain an understanding of the impact on surrounding groundwater and any consequential effects on nearby surface water.

The Compliance section of the Regional Council monitors feedlots and feedpads, and may take enforcement action for any non-compliance.

Need more information?

Compliance- Simon Moffitt

Catchments- Warwick Hesketh

Consents- Paul Barrett

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