

A guide for Hawke's Bay farmers when disposing of culled chicken and related waste impacted by avian influenza (AI).

August 2025

Introduction

This guide has been prepared for you by the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand, Egg Producers Federation and Harrison Grierson.

Inside this guide, you'll find information on:

- Disposal Options for your region
- **Best practice tips – what we recommend**
- General advice and recommendations
- Who to talk to if you have questions
- Regional and District Plan rules to consider

Estimates

We estimate the following volumes and weight for carcasses + litter + manure for 10,000 birds. This is important to consider when assessing disposal options.

Layer = 35t and 29m³ Broiler = 72t and 65m³

Offal Pit Disposal

Disposal of waste in an on-site offal pit may be a permitted activity and not need consent. Check with a planner first. Contact details are provided overleaf. Excess waste may need to go to landfill. The MPI on-farm burial Guidelines for managing AI are required to be complied with.

If you choose a disposal option that requires consent, we recommend you start the application process as soon as practical.

Recommendations

1. On-site **offal pits** (if consent is not required)
2. Offsite disposal (**landfills**) for any remaining waste that exceeds offal pit limits
3. Disposal requiring consent – offal pits that contravene a rule or composting.

1. What can go in an offal pit?

- ✓ Carcasses and animal material including eggs
- ✓ Only waste from the same farm holding or land with the same owner
- ✓ Waste from the farm (including litter, shed material, bedding)
- × Dairy sludge or septic tank sludge
- × Hazardous substances such as explosives or electronics

2. Estimate the volume

- Offal pit sizes are limited by District earthworks rules:
- Hastings District = 2,000m³ and 5m deep.
- Central Hawke's Bay District = no volume limit. Max 5m deep.

If you have a volume of waste that exceeds these limits, you will need to dispose of excess at an offsite landfill or consider another method of disposal.

3. Select an appropriate site

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described over the page) are met
- ✓ At least 0.6m above the winter groundwater table.
- ✓ Elevated ground where surface water can be diverted away from the hole.
- × No high value soils or soils containing gravel or limestone
- × **Poorly drained areas or areas prone to flooding or ponding during high rainfall.**

4. Digging your pit

- ✓ Dispose of waste as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Install erosion, sediment and dust controls as needed.
- ✓ Restore the surface to a similar state as the surrounding land.
- ✓ Securely cover – in soil with an infiltration rate of less than 150 mm/hour. Deep enough to avoid scavenging.
- ✓ **Don't use lime as this can restrict the decomposition process.**

Offal Pit Buffer distances

Buffer	20m	50m	100m
Surface water body	X		
Bore or well		X	
Property Boundary			X

Composting

Composting may require resource consent; farmers should check with Council first. Some associated material will need to be taken to landfill.

The MPI Composting Guidelines for managing AI are required to be complied with.

Pros

- Leachate can be managed better for indoor composting
- May be more affordable than landfill disposal
- Provides another option where offal pit requirements can't be met.

Cons

- Increased health and safety risk due to ongoing exposure.
- Minimum 30 days to complete – this will increase the time until farmers can return to normal operation.
- Takes time to obtain a consent.
- Consider how you will dispose of or use the final product before you decide to compost – off-site use may be limited due to perception.

Consenting

- Will require a resource consent from Regional Council for large scale composting activities such as this.
- We recommend you contact a planner, details are provided overleaf.

Considerations

- Indoor composting should be sought – outdoor composting may be impacted by rain and cold temperatures.
- The composting material must reach temperatures of 55 degrees Celsius
- Odour and leachate must be contained.
- Specialised equipment and extra staff may be required.

Offsite disposal

Not all landfills will accept bird flu-impacted waste. **Below are landfills that may be able to accept bird carcasses or associated waste.**

Landfills are responsible for obtaining their own appropriate consents or authorisations.

Silverstream Landfill – Wellington

May be able to accept biological waste
P: 546 0200 E: - landfill@ncc.govt.nz
A: Reynolds Bach Drive, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019 .

Disposal of this material at a landfill will incur additional costs on top of routine landfill costs.
Farmers should also consider transport costs.

Central Hawke's Bay Landfill

P: 06 857 8060
E: landfill@chbdc.govt.nz
A: 806 Farm Road, Waipukurau 4284.
May accept biological waste, but only from within the Central HB District

Omarunui Landfill – Hawke's Bay

May accept non-biological waste
Contact via online form:
<https://forms.hdc.govt.nz/online-services/new/Credit-App/step/1>
A: Taylor Pass Road, Blenheim

Landfill disposal key steps

1. Contact landfill operators

- Contact the landfill operator as soon as possible.
- Landfill operators will need to comply with the MPI Landfill Guide.

2. Estimate

- The volume and weight of waste need to be estimated and supplied to truck and landfill operators. The following numbers are generally expected for 10,000 carcasses + litter + associated waste:
- The estimates provided offer a useful starting point, but farmers should calculate more precise figures based on the age and specific conditions of their population

3. Organise transport

- Trucks must be sealed and lined. Skips are sealed and won't need lining, just lidding.
- No leakage must be able to occur during transportation.
- Transporters will need to comply with the MPI Biosecure Transport Guide.

4. Submit Permitted Waste Application

- Applications to landfill facilities need to be made and approved before disposing of special waste. These cost from \$80+.
- Approval of applications depends on the level of detail provided upfront.

General Advice

- If you want to dispose of waste in a different way, not described in this guide, please talk to a planner and Biosecurity New Zealand. Contact details are provided below.
- Resource consent – disposing of culled chickens is time-sensitive. We recommend disposal options that do not need resource consent.
- In the event that consent is needed, we recommend you start the application process as soon as practical.
- Advice and disposal recommendations may change – ensure that this is the most up-to-date advice before you take action.

Council contacts

Council	Stream	Contact Number	Email address
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Planning	06 835 9200	consentadvisor@hbrc.govt.nz
Simon Moffitt - HBRC	Planner	06 835 9200	moffitt@hbrc.govt.nz
Hastings District Council	General	06 871 5000	customerservice@hdc.govt.nz
Central Hawke's Bay District Council	Planning	06 857 8060	planner@chbdc.govt.nz

Planning and environmental advice

Name	Role	Contact Number	Email address
Hali Hoskin (author)	Environmental Consultant	+64 9 2126468	h.hoskin@harrisingrierson.com
Mary McConnell	Planner	+64 3 421 6196	m.mcconnell@harrisingrierson.com

Attachment

Regional Plans

Hawke's Bay Resource Management Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rules from the Hawke's Bay Resource Management Plan. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Hawke's Bay Resource Management Plan for full details.

Definitions

Hazardous substance – unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations prepared under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, any substance:

- a) with one or more of the following intrinsic properties:
 - i. explosiveness
 - ii. flammability
 - iii. a capacity to oxidise
 - iv. corrosiveness toxicity (including chronic toxicity)
 - v. ecotoxicity, with or without bioaccumulation, or
- b) which on contact with air or water (other than air or water where the temperature or pressure has been artificially increased or decreased) generates a substance with any one or more of the properties specified in paragraph (a) of this definition.

Hawke's Bay Resource Management Plan Section 6.4.2 - Rule 16 (Permitted Activity)

The discharge of contaminants into air, or onto or into production land, arising from the storage, transfer, treatment or disposal of solid waste, including:

- the use of farm tips
- offal holes.

Subject to the following conditions:

- a) The waste shall have been generated on the subject property, or on another property under the same ownership as that used for disposal.
- b) There shall be no disposal of waste oil or other hazardous substances.
- c) Any discharges to air shall not cause any offensive or objectionable odour, or noxious or dangerous levels of gases, beyond the boundary of the subject property.
- d) There shall be no visible discharge of any material, including dust, beyond the boundary of the subject property, unless written approval is obtained from the affected property owner.
- e) The discharge shall not result in any airborne liquid contaminant being carried beyond the boundary of the subject property.
- f) There shall be no discharge within **20 m** of any surface water body, or over the Heretaunga Plains or Ruataniwha Plains unconfined aquifers as shown in Schedule IV.
- g) There shall be no ponding in the area used for waste management, and no runoff of contaminants into any surface water body.
- h) There shall be no discharge within **30 m** of any bore or well.
- i) The discharge shall not cause any contamination of groundwater.
- j) Any waste disposal shall be no less than **600 mm** above the winter groundwater table.
- k) Any offal holes used shall be securely covered, and shall be constructed in soil with an infiltration rate not exceeding 150 mm/hour

Auckland

Attachment

District Plans

This section provides a summary of rules for the District Plans within the Hawke's Bay Region. Refer to the District Plans for the full details.

There are no Poultry farms in Napier or Wairoa therefore the rules for these districts are not included.

Central Hawke's Bay District Plan (Operative in Part)

Earthworks

EW-R2 – Ancillary rural earthworks (incl. offal pits) are a Permitted Activity in Rural Zones given compliance with relevant standards:

- EW-S1 Slope – General Rural Zone - not exceeding 45° above horizontal;
- EW-S2 Extent of earthworks does not exceed the following volumes within specified areas:
Rural Production Zone = unlimited.
- EW-S3 Vertical extent of excavation does not exceed the following, within specified areas:
General Rural Zone = 5m
- EW-S4 Site reinstatement
- EW-S5 Control of silt and sediment
- EW-S6 Earthworks and vertical holes within the National Grid Yard
- EW-S7 Ancillary rural earthworks
- EW-S8 Electrical safety distances
- EW-S9 Mineral prospecting and exploration
- EW-S10 Earthworks not to be within a schedules wāhi tapu place in HH-SCHED2

Hastings District Plan

Earthworks

EM5 – The burial of material from biosecurity incursions of an unwanted organism is a Permitted Activity, given compliance with the relevant performance standards:

- 27.1.6A Extent of earthworks in rural zone = not exceeding 2,000m³ per hectare of site.
- 27.1.6B Vegetation clearance and remediation.
- 27.1.6C Slope in rural areas = not exceeding 45 degrees above horizontal.
- 27.1.6D Excavation in rural areas = cut/fill face overall vertical extent not exceeding: **5m**
- 27.1.6E Noise Section 25.1.
- 27.1.6F Flood protection works: no significant change is to occur to existing flood overflow paths.
- 27.1.6G Site plan required if any fill of over 100m³ volume, or 0.5m total depth.
- 27.1.6H Sediment control.

Attachment

Resource Consents

A resource consent is not required for disposal at landfills.

If you are considering on-site disposal, such as burial or composting, you will need to assess if a resource consent is required. This attachment provides a summary of key steps for consenting.

We recommend that you seek disposal options that do not require resource consent in the first instance. Seeking consent can be expensive and time-consuming. It may take months to prepare, lodge, process and grant a consent.

Quick notes

A resource consent is formal permission from a council to undertake an activity that contravenes a rule. It is how councils manage possible effects on people and the environment.

- Poultry farms will often already have resource consent/s in place, possibly for: discharging wastewater, drawing water, constructing sheds.
- Both district and regional rules should be considered.
 - District consents – granted by district councils. Regarding land-use, development, noise, traffic and the built environment.
 - Regional consents – granted by regional councils. Regarding environmental effects – water, soils and air.
- If you contravene a rule, you may need a resource consent to undertake on-site burial or composting.

1.0 Review the rules

Before you choose your disposal option, you should assess the rules and consider if you contravene any. Relevant regional and district rules are included but not limited to those attached to this guide.

Both regional and district rules need to be considered.

It is best to check with a planner or consultant before you dispose of AI material on-site. They can check your assessment so that you can be confident you are operating with the proper approvals. Contact details are provided in the guide.

2.0 Contravene a rule

If you contravene a rule, you will need a resource consent.

You should consider contracting a planner to assist with the resource consent application process.

2.1 What consents may be required?

Consents that may be required include but are not limited to:

- District – earthworks, discharge to air (odour),
 - Regional – earthworks, discharge to air (odour), land-use (offal pits), discharge of contaminants to land where it has the potential to enter water. Some regional plans have composting rules.
-

3.0 Contact the council

Either you or your planner will need to contact the regional and/or district council as soon as possible. Council contact details are provided in the guide.

1. Pre-application meeting – we recommend organising a pre-application meeting with the council. This will ensure that you are applying for the correct activity under the correct rule. The council can then flag any potential issues early.

2. Preparation of the application

A resource consent application will need to be made. This includes:

- Completed application forms
- Assessment of environmental effects
- Statutory assessment
- Notification assessment – are there any affected parties?
- Consultation assessment
- Rule assessment

4.0 Granting of the consent

Only once the consent application is lodged and then granted will you be able to undertake the activity for which consent is required.

You will be issued with consent conditions that you must comply with.

The council may undertake compliance monitoring, which would include a monitoring officer inspecting the farm before, during or after the activity. This may be to ensure that the consent conditions are being complied with.