

A guide for Manawatu 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 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

Recommendations

1. Onsite - **offal pits** for offal and **farm dump** (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**.

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 = 29t and 35m³ Broiler = 64t and 72m³

Onsite Disposal – Burial

Disposal of waste in an on-site offal pit or farm dump 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.

Onsite Burial – Step 1 – Offal pit or farm dump?

Offal pit or farm dump?

- Disposal of offal in an onsite offal pit and non offal in an onsite farm dump, may not need consent.
- If the Regional Rules can be followed, **we recommend this be the first choice** for disposal in the Manawatu Region.

General Considerations

- All waste being disposed of onsite must be from the same land holding – no offsite waste is permitted.
- Depending on the waste, it will either be an offal pit or an onsite landfill. Slightly different rules apply. See the attachment for a breakdown of the relevant regional rules.
- You can have both an offal pit and an onsite landfill on one farm.

What can go in an offal pit?

- ✓ Carcasses and animal material including eggs
- ✓ Compost bulking agent (manure)
- × No other AI impacted waste such as litter, shed material, feed, bedding

What can go in a farm dump?

- ✓ Waste from the farm (including litter, shed material, bedding)
- × Dairy sludge or septic tank sludge, hazardous substances such as explosives or electronics
- × Offal or animal parts

2 Step 2 – Select a site

For both

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described below) are met
- ✓ Surface water - choose elevated ground where surface water can easily be diverted away from the pit.
- ✗ Discharge into any surface waterbody or its bed or artificial watercourse
- ✗ Offensive or objectionable odour or dust beyond the property boundary
- ✗ Soils containing gravel and limestone.

Offal Pits

- ✓ The lowest point of the offal pit or farm dump must be at least 1 m above the seasonally highest water table.

Farm dump

- ✓ The rate of discharge must be no greater than 150 kgN/ha/year in any 12 month period and must not exceed 60 kgN/ha in any 24 hour period.
- ✓ A nutrient budget or plan may be required.

Step 3 – Buffer distances

Best practise (for both)	m
From any surface water body	100
Offal pit	m
Wetland, trout spawning or site of significance. Property boundaries.	10
Residential buildings, public places and amenity area where people congregate, educational facilities, and public roads	150

Farm dump	m
Wetland, trout spawning or site of significance.	10
Bores, surface waterbodies, artificial water courses and coastal areas	20
Property boundaries, rare or at risk habitats	50
Residential buildings, public places	150

Step 4 – Check your district's earthworks rules and limits

District	Volume	Other limits
Horowhenua	2,500m ³	None
Tararua		
Whanganui		
Manawatu	2,500m ³	Additional buffers
Palmerston North	1,000 m ³	Max 1.5m deep
Rangitikei	1,000 m ³	None

Step 4 – Digging the pit

- Ensure earthworks do not discharge sediment or sediment laden water to water. Install erosion and sediment controls as needed.
- Dispose of waste as quickly as possible.
- Cover carcasses with at least 1m soil to avoid odour and prevent vermin or temporarily cover with plastic and soil, until the pit is full and can be capped. Then re-grass.
- Don't use lime as this can restrict the decomposition process.

Composting

Considerations

- Composting will require resource consent. Obtaining consent may take many months – we recommend you start the application process as early as practical.
- Indoor composting should be sought – outdoor composting may be impacted by rain and cold temperatures.
- Cold weather may increase composting time and heating may be required
- Minimum 30 days to complete – this will increase the time until farmers can return to normal operation.
- 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.

Disposal of this material at a landfill will incur additional costs on top of routine landfill costs.

Farmers should also consider transport costs.

Silverstream Landfill – Wellington

May accept biological waste

P: 546 0200 E: - landfill@ncc.govt.nz

A: Reynolds Bach Drive, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019 .

Central Hawke's Bay Landfill

May accept biological waste

P: 06 857 8060

E: landfill@chbdc.govt.nz

A: 806 Farm Road, Waipukurau 4284.

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 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. Organize transport

- Trucks must be sealed and/or double lined, no leakage must be able to occur.
- Transporters will need to comply with the MPI transport guide

4. Submit Permitted Waste Application

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

Attachment

Contacts

1.0 Contacts

Council	Stream	Contact Number	Email address
Horizons Regional Council	Planning	0508800800	consents.enquiries@horizons.govt.nz
Horowhenua District Council	General	06 366 0999	enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz
Tararua District Council	General	06 374 4080 (North) 06 376 0110 (South)	info@tararuadc.govt.nz
Whanganui District Council	Planning	06 349 0001	yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz
Manawatu District Council	Planning	06 323 0000	admin_planning@mdc.govt.nz
Palmerston North City Council	Planning	06 356 8199	planning.services@pncc.govt.nz
Rangitikei District Council	General	0800 422 522	info@rangitikei.govt.nz
Hali Hoskin (author)	Environmental Consultant	+64 9 2126468	h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com
Mary McConnell	Planner	+64 3 421 6196	m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com

2.0 PPE Suppliers

NZ Safety Blackwoods – Nationwide Safety and PPE supplier.

Address: 15 Victoria Street, Petone, Lower Hutt, Wellington

Email: kate.hong@nzsafetyblackwoods.co.nz

Phone: 027 261 6397

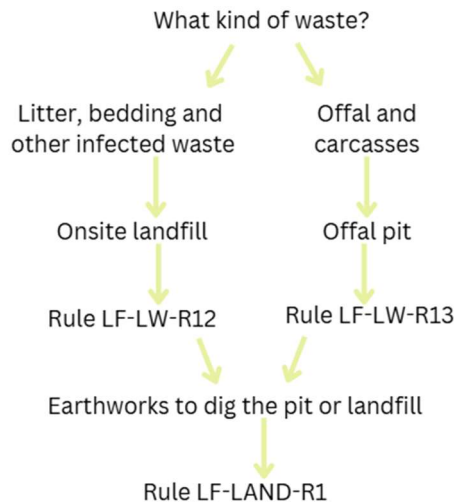
3.0 Transport and Haulage Providers

Company	Contact	Phone	Email	Capacity
Nationwide				
Enviro NZ	Cullum Penman	027 509 6432	Cullum.penman@enviroz.co.nz	100 +
N & J Wood	Ryan Wood	027 460 3223	Accounts@njwood.co.nz	20 +
Manawatu				
Hilton Haulage Limited Partnership	Jamie Gordon	027 688 8458	Wal.gordon@hiltons.co.nz	60 bulk tippers

Attachment

Horizons Regional Plan

This section considers the relevant rules from the Horizons Regional Plan. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Horizons Regional Plan for full details.



Definitions

- Infected waste is considered hazardous waste but not a hazardous substance
- Poultry farm litter - solid poultry manure, bedding and composted material from poultry farm sheds.

LF-LW-R12 - Poultry litter (Discharges to Land and Water – Rule 12 Permitted Activity)

The discharge of poultry farm litter or pig farm litter and associated stockpiling onto or into production land pursuant to ss15(1) or 15(2A) RMA and, as an ancillary activity, any discharge of contaminants into air pursuant to ss15(1) or 15(2A) RMA, except where the discharge is undertaken in association with a use of land controlled RP-LF-LWR14, RP-LF-LW-R15, RP-LF-LW-R17 and RP-LF-LW-R18.

Subject to the following conditions:

1. The rate of discharge must be no greater than 150 kgN/ha/year in any 12 month period and must not exceed 60 kgN/ha in any 24 hour period.
2. There must be no direct discharge or run-off into any surface waterbody or its bed or artificial watercourse.
3. The discharge of poultry farm litter or pig farm litter and associated temporary stockpiling must comply with the following separation distances:
 - a) 150 m from any residential buildings, public places and amenity areas where people congregate, and educational facilities
 - b) 50 m from property boundaries
 - c) 50 m from rare habitats, threatened habitat and at-risk habitats
 - d) 20 m from bores, surface waterbodies, artificial watercourse and the coastal marine area
 - e) 50 m from any historic heritage identified in any district plan or regional plan.
4. A nutrient budget undertaken using the OVERSEER® model, which takes into account all other sources of nitrogen and which is designed to minimise nitrogen leaching rates, must be used to plan and carry out the discharge of poultry farm litter or pig farm litter. If a nutrient management plan is required under RPLF-LW-R14 RP-LF-LW-R15, RP-LF-LW-R17 and RP- LF-LW-R18 then the nutrient budget required by this condition must be consistent with it and the activity must be carried out in accordance with it.
5. The discharge of poultry farm litter or pig farm litter and associated temporary stockpiling must not result in any offensive or objectionable odour or dust beyond the property boundary.

6. All areas used for temporary stockpiling must be located and managed in a manner that ensures at all times when such areas are in use:
 - a) run-off from the area into water or an artificial watercourse is prevented
 - b) run-off from the surrounding catchment is prevented from entering the area.

LF-LW-R13 – Offal pits (Discharges to Land and Water – Rule 13 Permitted Activity)

The discharge of contaminants onto or into production land pursuant to ss15(1), 15(2) or 15(2A) RMA associated with an offal hole or farm dump, and, as an ancillary activity, any discharge of contaminants into air pursuant to ss15(1) or 15(2A) RMA, except where the discharge is undertaken in association with a use of land controlled by RP-LFLW-R14, RP-LF-LW-R15, RP-LF-LW-R17 and RP-LF-LW-R18.

Permitted subject to the following conditions:

1. Only animal carcasses, or parts thereof, and waste, which is sourced from the property on which the offal hole or farm dump is located, can be disposed of.
2. The waste must not contain any hazardous substances or sewage.
3. There must be no discharge into any surface waterbody or its bed or artificial watercourse.
4. The lowest point of the offal hole or farm dump must be at least 1 m above the seasonally highest water table.
5. The offal hole or farm dump must comply with the following separation distances: a. 150 m from any residential buildings, public places and amenity areas where people congregate, educational facilities and public roads b. 10 m from property boundaries

LF-LAND-R1 – Earthworks (Land – Rule 1 Small-scale land disturbance - Permitted Activity)

Except as regulated by RP-LF-LAND-R7, RPECO-R1 and RP-ECO-R2, any land disturbance pursuant to s9(2) RMA of a total area up to 2500 m² per property per 12- month period and, as an ancillary activity any:

1. diversion of water pursuant to s14(2) RMA on the land where the land disturbance is undertaken, or
2. discharge of sediment into water pursuant to s15(1) RMA resulting from the land disturbance.

Subject to the following conditions:

1. The activity must not take place on land that is within a coastal foredune.
2. Erosion and sediment control methods, which may include bunding, silt traps, interception drains or other alternative methods, to minimise sediment discharge to water must be installed prior to, and maintained during, the land disturbance activity
3. Any discharge of sediment into water must not, after reasonable mixing, cause the receiving waterbody to breach the water quality standards for visual clarity set out in RP-SCHED5 for that waterbody.
4. The activity must not occur on land that is in, or within 5 m of: a. the bed of a river*that is permanently flowing, b. the bed of a river that is not permanently flowing and has an active bed width greater than 1 m, c. the bed of a lake.
5. The activity must not occur on land* that is in, or within 10 m of:
 - a) A wetland as identified in RP-SCHED6,
 - b) Sites valued for Trout Spawning as identified in RP-SCHED2,
 - c) Sites of Significance - Aquatic as identified in RP-SCHED2.

Attachment

District Plans

This section provides a summary of relevant rules for the District Plans within the Horizons (Manawatū-Wanganui) Region. Refer to the District Plans for the full details.

Both Regional and District Plans must be considered. These are incorporated into the step-by-step guide for onsite disposal. Where there are no relevant rules or limitations in the District Plans, defer to the Regional Rules.

There are no relevant rules or limitations for the following districts:

- Horowhenua District Plan
- Tararua District Plan
- Whanganui District Plan

Manawatū District Plan

3D.4.1 – Earthworks in the Rural Zone are a Permitted Activity when relevant factors and performance standards are complied with:

- Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - if near or within heritage areas may incur additional conditions.
- Presence of notable trees may incur additional conditions.

3D.4.2 – Standards:

- Dust and sediment must be managed appropriately.
- Not within 20m of the banks of Oroua River or Kiwitea Stream.
- Not within 10m of the banks of Makino Stream.
- Not within any area identified in Appendices 1A, 1B, 1D, or 1F.
- Proximity to national grid and associated conditions.
- Not within 20m of natural gas transmission pipeline.
- Not block stormwater or overland flow paths.

Palmerston North City Plan

R6.3.6.1 – Earthworks in the Rural Zone are a Permitted Activity given compliance with performance standards:

- Not exceed **1,000m³** of disturbance; or
- Not exceed **50m²** of disturbance in Tararua Landscape Protection Area;
- Not result in alteration of the existing ground level by more than **1.5m**
- Not be located closer than 3m to a site boundary.

Rangitikei District Plan

EW-R1 – Permitted Activity in Rural Zone (excluding ONFL) with no max limit, change, setback from boundaries, and given a 10m min setback from wetland.

- If inside an ONFL: maximum of **1,000m³** per site.
- Earthworks must also comply with EW-S2 Flooding effects and EW-S3 Archaeology discovery standards.

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.