

A guide for Marlborough 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
- **General advice and recommendations**
- Who to talk to if you have questions
- Rules to consider

Recommendations

1. Composting of carcasses and biological waste – likely need consent.
2. Offsite disposal (landfills) of remaining, non biological waste

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

Disposal of waste in an offal pit in Marlborough is not a permitted activity due to the shallow groundwater in the region. Offal pit disposal would need a resource consent; this may not be granted however, due to the potential groundwater effects. **We do not recommend farmers in Marlborough seek to dispose of AI waste in offal pits.**

Composting

Composting will likely require resource consent; farmers should check with Council first. **We recommend you start the application process as soon as practical.** Some associated material may need to be taken to landfill.

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 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.

- 2 **Offsite Disposal**
- We recommend disposal at landfill be sought as a supplementary disposal option to composting.
- Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted waste. Below are two options that may be able to accept some AI impacted waste.
- Landfills are responsible for obtaining their own appropriate approvals and consents.

Kate Valley Landfill

May be able to accept biological waste.

P: 02108243882.

E: hleach@wm.nz

A: 554 Mt Cass Road, Teviotdale

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 needs to be estimated and supplied to truck and landfill operators.

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.

General Advice

- If you want to dispose of waste in a different way, not described in this guide, please talk to a planner. Contact details are provided in the attachments.
- Resource consents – disposing of culled chickens is time-sensitive. We recommend disposal options that do not need a resource consent.
- In the event that consent is needed, we recommend you start the application process as soon as practical.
- Advice and recommendations may change – make sure this is the most recent version of this guide before taking action.

Useful Contacts

Person / Council	Role	Number	Email
Marlborough District Council	Planning	03 520 7400	dutyplanner@marlborough.govt.nz
Hali Hoskin (author)	Environmental Consultant	+64 9 2126468	h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com
Mary McConnell	Planner	+64 21 721623	m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com

Attachment

Marlborough Environment Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rules from the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (Appeals version). These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan for full details. Marlborough is both a district and a region, therefore only rules from the Marlborough Environment Plan are presented.

Summary

- Disposal of material, excluding offal and carcasses, may be a permitted activity under rule 3.3.32 if the conditions described can be met. Contact a Planner for further clarification if needed.
- Disposal of carcasses from intensive farming – including Poultry Farming, is not a permitted activity in Marlborough. Therefore rule 3.3.33 can not be met and a resource consent would be required.
- Marlborough council may not grant resource consents for offal pit disposal due to the shallow groundwater in the region.
- Composting all/most of AI impacted waste may be a permitted activity if the conditions of rule 36.2.4.1 are met. We recommend speaking to a planner first.

Rule 3.3.32 - Disposal of farm rubbish into a pit

3.3.32.1. Only biodegradable material (including offal or a carcass not from intensive farming) may be disposed of to a farm rubbish pit.

3.3.32.2. Only farm rubbish sourced from the same property, or a property held in the same ownership, may be disposed of to a farm rubbish pit.

3.3.32.3. The farm rubbish pit must not be sited within a Groundwater Protection Area.

3.3.32.4. The farm rubbish pit must not be located within:

50m of a bore unless the bore intercepts the confined layer of Riverlands FMU or the confined layer of the Wairau Aquifer FMU;

20m of a river, lake, Significant Wetland, drainage channel, Drainage Channel Network or mean high water springs;

50m of any boundary of the property or a dwelling.

3.3.32.5. Surface run-off must not enter the pit.

3.3.32.6. When a pit is filled to within 0.5m of the original land surface, or is no longer used, the contents must be covered with soil to a depth of at least 0.5m.

3.3.32.7. The farm rubbish pit must be located above the natural ground water level at all times.

Rule 3.3.33 – Disposal of offal or a carcass into an offal pit

3.1.33. Disposal of offal or a carcass into an offal pit is a permitted activity subject to:

3.3.33.1. Only offal, or carcasses (except those from intensive farming) sourced from the same property, or a property held in the same ownership may be disposed of to an offal pit.

3.3.33.2. Only offal, carcasses or biodegradable material may be disposed of to an offal pit.

3.3.33.3. The offal pit must not be located within:

(a) 50m of a bore unless the bore intercepts the confined layer of Riverlands FMU or the confined layer of the Wairau Aquifer FMU or any boundary of the property or a dwelling.

(b) 20m of a river, lake, Significant Wetland, drainage channel, Drainage Channel Network or mean high water springs;

3.3.33.4. The offal pit must be located above the natural ground water level at all times. The disposal must not occur within a Groundwater Protection Area.

3.3.33.5. When not in use, the offal pit must be completely covered by an impermeable material at all times or otherwise designed to prevent the entry of surface run-off.

Composting Standard 36.2.4.1

- a) Any person undertaking the composting of organic waste materials such as fish wastes, animal wastes, or other potentially odorous materials, shall adopt the best practicable option to ensure that the process does not generate odour that, in the opinion of an officer, is offensive or objectionable;
- b) Any raw materials such as fish material, animal material, chicken material including manure, or other potentially odorous materials, shall be in good condition before processing commences. The raw materials shall be stored on site in such a manner that prevents spoiling;
- c) Raw materials shall be blended as soon as practicable with other compostable materials. If this cannot be undertaken prior to spoiling of raw materials, then any spoilt raw material shall be immediately removed from the premises and disposed of in a sanitary landfill;
- d) Raw materials likely to cause odour shall be blended with other compostable materials and the composting pile covered with a minimum of 200 millimetres of bark or similar material;
- e) The composting pile shall be constructed in such a manner to ensure good air flow through the pile in that the composting process is essentially aerobic. Forced ventilation of the composting piles may be required at the discretion of the Council as a condition of the grant of any consent; and
- f) Leachate shall be collected, or otherwise controlled and disposed in a complying manner. Any leachate collected or stored on the premises shall not generate odour.

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.
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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.