

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

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Introduction

This guide has been prepared for you by the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand, the 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

Recommendations

1. Onsite - **offal pits** for offal and **farm dump** for non-offal (if consent is not required)
2. Off-site 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 weights and volumes 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

Step 1 – Offal pit or farm dump?

Both offal pit and farm dump disposal are burial.

Both disposal options must comply with the MPI on-site burial guide.

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 Waikato 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

Step 2 – Select a site

For onsite disposal

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described below) are met
- ✓ 1m above the groundwater table
- ✓ 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.

Step 3 – Buffer distances

Buffers for Farm Dump and Offal Pits	m
Any water supply bore or water body	100
Best practice buffer distances according to Regional Plan Guide	
Cave entrance or stream sink	10
Significant geothermal feature	20
Property boundary	50
Area identified by a district plan as being a significant habitat of indigenous flora and fauna. Sand dune system or Coastal Marine Area	100
Marae, Residential Zone, hall or a public reserve	300

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

Some Districts have earthworks volume limits that therefore limit the size of offal pits:

District	Volume (cubic meters)
Hauraki	4,000
Matamata-Piako	1,000
Waikato District	1,000
Waipa	1,000

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.

Off-site disposal

Landfill disposal is the only appropriate off-site disposal method. Not all landfills will accept this waste. Below are landfills that have indicated that they may be able to accept this waste.

We recommend off-site disposal as the second option, as this may be more costly than on-site disposal.

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

Farmers should also consider transport costs.

Redvale Landfill

P: 021 953 755

E: GJujnovich@wm.nz

A: Landfill Access Road, Dairy Flat

Whitford Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Mike Winterbottom)

E: mwinterbottom@wm.nz

A: 301 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Auckland

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 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 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.

Composting

Considerations

- Composting will require resource consent. Obtaining consent may take many months. **Because of this we recommend offal pit and landfill disposal be sought first. Alternativley, we recommend you start your application process as soon as possible.**
- Indoor composting should be sought, as outdoor composting may be impacted by rain and cold temperatures.
- The composting material must reach temperatures of 55 degrees Celsius.
- Minimum 30 days to complete – this will increase the time until farmers can return to normal operation.
- 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
- Specialised equipment and extra staff may be required.
- The MPI Composting Guide must be followed.

Attachment

Contacts

1.0 Council Contacts

Contact	Stream	Phone	Email
Waikato Regional Council	General	0800 800 401	Info@waikatoregion.govt.nz
Waikato District Council	Planning	07 824 8633	Duty.Planner@waidc.govt.nz
Waipa District Council	General	07 872 0030	info@waipadc.govt.nz
Matamata Piako District Council	General	0800 746 467	info@mpdc.govt.nz
Hauraki District Council	General	0800 734 834	info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz
South Waikato District Council	General	07 885 0340	info@southwaikato.govt.nz

2.0 Planning Advice

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

Attachment

Waikato Regional Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rule from the Waikato Regional Plan. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Waikato Regional Plan Section 5.2.6 and 5.2.8 for full details.

Summary

- Offal may be disposed of in an offal pitt without consent if **Rule 5.2.6.2** is complied with.
- Other waste may be disposed of in a farm dump if Rule **5.2.6.1** is complied with
- Composting of offal without a consent is limited to 20 cubic meters as described in rule **5.2.8.1**
- Section **5.2.12** provides good practise advice for onsite disposal

Farm dump

Rule 5.2.6.1 - Permitted Activity Rule – Dumps on Production Land

The discharge of solid waste into or onto land as part of the operation of a dump on production land where the contaminants are sourced only from the property on which the dump occurs, and where the dump site is outside of:

1. The catchment of, or within 10 metres of, whichever is the lesser, a sink hole or cave entrance
2. A floodplain of a river
3. Any wetlands that are areas of significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna
4. A significant geothermal feature

is a permitted activity subject to the following conditions:

- a. The waste shall not contain:
 - i. hazardous substances*, including residues in empty agrichemical, detergent and oil containers
 - ii. sewage, offal or animal carcasses.
- b. No contaminants from the dump on production land shall be discharged into water.
- c. The activity shall not disturb any archaeological site or waahi tapu as identified at the date of notification of this Plan (28 September 1998), in any district plan, in the NZ Archaeological Association's Site Recording Scheme, or by the Historic Places Trust except where Historic Places Trust approval has been obtained.
- d. In the event of any waahi tapu that is not subject to condition c) being identified by the Waikato Regional Council to the person undertaking the activity, the activity shall cease insofar as it may affect the waahi tapu. The activity shall not be recommenced without approval of the Waikato Regional Council.

Offal Hole

Rule 5.2.6.2 - Permitted Activity Rule – Offal Holes on Production Land

The discharge of contaminants into or onto land as part of the operation of an offal hole on production land where the contaminants are sourced from the property on which the offal hole is sited and any subsequent discharge to air that does not comply with Rule 5.2.6.1 when occurring outside of:

1. The catchment of, or within 10 metres of, whichever is the lesser, a sink hole* or cave entrance
2. A floodplain of a river

3. Any wetlands that are areas of significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna
4. A significant geothermal feature

is a permitted activity subject to the following conditions:

- a) **Only dead animal matter** and perishable household waste shall be disposed of into the offal hole.
- b) The waste shall not contain:
 - i. hazardous substances or material contaminated by hazardous substances (including residues in empty agrichemical, detergent and oil containers)
 - ii. Sewage.
- c) The lowest point of the offal hole shall be at least **one metre** above the level of the seasonally shallowest water table.
- d) Where the offal hole was in use prior to this Plan becoming operative and the lowest point of the offal hole was less than one metre above the seasonally shallowest water table, there must be no discharge of contaminants to water.
- e) The offal hole shall be covered to prevent surface water from entering the offal hole and prevent pests from gaining access to the waste.
- f) The activity shall not disturb any archaeological site or waahi tapu as identified at the date of notification of this Plan (28 September 1998), in any district plan, in the NZ Archaeological Association's Site Recording Scheme, or by the Historic Places Trust except where Historic Places Trust approval has been obtained.
- g) In the event of any waahi tapu that is not subject to condition f) being identified by the Waikato Regional Council to the person undertaking the activity, the activity shall cease insofar as it may affect the waahi tapu. The activity shall not be recommenced without approval of the Waikato Regional Council.
- h) There are no objectionable effects as a result of odour beyond the property boundary.
- i) The offal hole shall not be within **100 metres** of any water supply bore or water body.

Good Practise Guide for Offal Holes and Farm Dumps

Section 5.2.12 - Good Practice Guide on Location of Dumps and Offal Holes on Production Land

The following good practice guide provides some initial guidance on the best locations for dumps and offal holes on production land. It should be read with the rules in Section 5.2.6.

- a. To prevent or minimise the risk of adverse effects associated with dumps and offal holes on production land such facilities shall not be located within:
 - i. 100 metres of any water supply bore, water body or area identified by a district plan as being a significant habitat of indigenous flora and fauna.
 - ii. A coastal sand dune system or within 100 metres of the coastal marine area.
 - iii. 10 metres of a cave entrance or stream sink.
 - iv. 20 metres of a significant geothermal feature.
 - v. 50 metres of a property boundary.
 - vi. 300 metres from a marae, residential zone, hall or a public reserve.
 - vii. High risk erosion areas.
 - viii. Floodplains of rivers or streams.

- ix. Any wetland area.
- b. In soils where water tables are very close to the surface, consideration should be given to composting of offal material or the use of commercial animal carcass collection services as an alternative waste disposal means.
- c. Under no circumstances should the base of the disposal area come into contact with the ground water table.
- d. When offal holes or dumps are closed, their location should be clearly identified so that future users or owners of the farm do not accidentally disturb the site.
- e. Offal holes should be covered with an impermeable concrete or metal manhole cover which is in kept place whenever the offal hole is not in use.

Composting

Rule 5.2.8.1

Permitted Activity Rule – Small Scale Composting

The discharge of contaminants onto or into land or air occurring as the result of the production of compost is a permitted activity subject to the following conditions:

- a. The total volume of compost produced at the site does not exceed **20 cubic metres** per annum.

Attachment

District Plans

This section provides a summary of rules for the District Plans within the Waikato Region that have poultry farms. Refer to the District Plans for the full details.

Summary

- Earthworks (needed to construct an offal pit) are limited to:
- Hauraki – max **4,000m³**
- Matamata-Piako – max **1,000m³**
- Waikato District – max **1,000m³**
- Waipā – max **1,000m³**
- Franklin and South Waikato District – no limits

Waipā District Plan

4.4.2.75 – Earthworks in the Rural Zone are a Permitted Activity, given compliance with:

- shall not exceed a total volume of **1,000m³** in a single activity or in cumulative activities in any calendar year, provided that this rule shall not apply to earthworks incidental to an approved resource consent or building consent, tillage of land associated with the growing of crops, construction, maintenance and upgrading of farm tracks, farm silage pits or existing drains.

4.4.2.76 – Any earthworks within a National Grid Yard must:

- Around National Grid pole support structures:
 - Be no deeper than 300mm within 2.2m of a National Grid pole support structure or stay wire; and
 - Be no deeper than 750mm between 2.2m to 5m from a National Grid pole support structure or stay wire.

Waikato Proposed District Plan (Appeals Version)

EW-R21 – Earthworks in the General Rural Zone are a Permitted Activity, given compliance with the following:

- Do not exceed a volume of more than **1,000m³** and an area of more than **2,000m²** over in any single consecutive 12 month period;
- The total combined depth of any excavation (excluding drilling) or filling does not exceed 3m above or below natural ground level;
- Take place on land with a maximum slope of 1:2 (1 vertical to 2 horizontal);
- Earthworks are setback a minimum of 1.5m from all boundaries;
- Areas exposed by earthworks are stabilised on completion and any remaining bare ground re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 2 months of the completion of the earthworks;
- Sediment resulting from the earthworks is managed on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls and does not enter waterways, open drains or overland flow paths; and
- Provided they are not within a kauri root zone.

South Waikato District Plan

EW-R1 (3) – Earthworks ancillary to PER activities or to approved CON, RDIS, or DIS activities are a permitted activity in GRUZ.

Earthworks within National Grid Yard are subject to additional rules and standards.

Matamata-Piako District Plan

1.5.2. (i)(g) – Referral to, and liaison with the Regional Council (and DOC where relevant): If the activity involves earthworks and land disturbance of **1,000m³** or more of earth, soil, or rock.

Works within proximity to the National Grid are subject to additional rules and standards.

No other relevant rules for the disposal of carcasses.

Hauraki District Plan

Franklin Section

There are no relevant rules for the disposal of carcasses or earthworks in the Franklin Section of the Plan.

Hauraki Section

7.8.5.1 (2) Earthworks are a Permitted Activity in a rural zone (outside ONLs, Amenity landscape area, floodways, overland flow paths, spillways & Piako flood ponding area).

- Excavation and movement of up to **4,000m³** of minerals and/or cleanfill
 - where Council is informed of the fill action before more than 500m³ is proposed to be relocated.
 - details are to be provided to the Council, where the fill action exceeds 500m³ and/or the depth of fill exceeds 0.5 metres at any point, within one month following the placement of fill, as follows:
 - legal description of property;
 - nature and source of fill;
 - location of fill on site;
 - depth of fill;
 - compaction of fill.
- Note: Compliance is also required with the activity specific standard for land ‘subject to inundation’ in the Rural Zone rules, where the land is identified on the planning maps as ‘subject to inundation’, and may alter the activity status.

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.