

Bird Flu Impacted Waste Disposal

A guide for Northland farmers when disposing of culled chicken and related waste impacted by bird flu.



Introduction

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

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

Offal Pit Disposal

Disposal of waste in an on-site offal pit may be a permitted activity and not need consent. If no rules are contravened, **we recommend offal pit disposal be the second choice for disposal, after composting.** Demonstrating that offal pit disposal is a permitted activity may be more difficult compared to composting. Check with a planner first. Contact details are provided overleaf. Offal pits are only suitable for offal; other waste must go to landfill. The on-farm Burial Work Instructions for managing bird flu are required to be complied with.

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
- × Other waste (including litter, shed material, bedding)
- × Dairy sludge or septic tank sludge
- × Hazardous substances such as explosives or electronics

2. Check your District Rules

- Some district rules limit where and how earthworks are permitted to be done. See the attachment for further details.
- Earthworks volumes are limited to 5,000m³

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

3. Select an appropriate site

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described over the page) are met
- ✓ **Above the 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 – at least 0.3m. No stormwater infiltration.
- ✓ **Don't use lime as this can restrict the decomposition process.**

Offal Pit Buffer distances

Buffer	20m	50m
Public road or space	X	
Surface water, a continually or intermittently flowing river, artificial watercourse, lake, natural wetland or the coastal marine area. Head of any water supply bore. Dwelling owned or occupied by another person.		X
The district plans specify further buffers. See the attachment for details.		

Offsite Disposal

Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted 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. Landfills are responsible for obtaining their own appropriate consents or authorisations

Redvale Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Glen Jujnovich)
E: GJujnovich@wm.nz
A: 1627 East Coast Road, Redvale

Whitford Landfill

P: 027 801 0369 (Mike Winterbottom)
E: mwinterbottom@wm.nz
A: 301 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Auckland

Puwera Landfill

E: 027 258 0532 (Andrew Sclater)
E: andrew.sclater@northlandwaste.co.nz
A: Off SH1 8km south of Whangarei

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

Landfill disposal key steps

1. Contact landfill operators

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

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 Biosecure Transport Work Instruction.

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.

Composting

Composting may require resource consent; farmers should check with Regional Council first. If composting can be done without a resource consent, **we recommend farmers seek composting as the primary disposal method**. Some associated material will need to be taken to landfill.

The Composting Work Instructions for managing bird flu 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.

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 recommendations may change – check you've got the most up-to-date version

Council Contacts

Council	Stream	Contact Number	Email address
Northland Regional Council	General	0800 002 004	consentsdutyplanner@nrc.govt.nz
Far North District Council	Planning	0800 920 029	duty.planner@fndc.govt.nz
Kaipara District Council	General	0800 727 059	council@kaipara.govt.nz
Whangarei District Council	General	09 430 4200	mailroom@wdc.govt.nz

Planning and Environmental Advice

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