

# Bird Flu Impacted Waste Disposal

A guide for Gisbourne 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
- General advice and **recommendations**
- Who to talk to if you have questions
- Regional rules to consider

## Recommendations

1. Offsite disposal (landfills)
2. Composting – will need consent.

## 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 35m<sup>3</sup>      Broiler = 64t and 72m<sup>3</sup>

## Onsite Disposal

Disposal of waste in an offal pit will require resource consent in the Gisborne Region. **We still recommend onsite disposal in offal pits as the first disposal option** in Gisborne, as there are no nearby landfills that are willing to accept this waste. Speak to a planner first – contact details are overleaf. **We recommend you start the consent application process ASAP.**

### 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) → **may be able to go to a farm dump**
- × 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 5,000m<sup>3</sup>

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.**

Composting

Composting will also require resource consent; farmers should check with Regional Council first. Some associated material may not be suitable for composting and may need to be taken to a landfill. Indoor composting should be sought as outdoor composting may be impacted by rain and cold temperatures.

The Composting Work Instructions for managing bird flu must 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

- 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

There are no landfills identified in Gisborne or the Bay of Plenty that accept this waste. Some associated waste (not carcasses) may be accepted at the Omarunui Landfill

Omarunui Landfill – Hawke’s Bay

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

Useful Contacts

| Name                                     | Role                     | Number         | Email                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tairāwhiti District and Regional Council | Planner                  | 06 867 2049    | <a href="mailto:Regional.consents@gdc.govt.nz">Regional.consents@gdc.govt.nz</a>           |
| Hali Hoskin (author)                     | Environmental Consultant | +64 9 2126468  | <a href="mailto:h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com">h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com</a>           |
| Mary McConnell                           | Planner                  | +64 3 421 6196 | <a href="mailto:m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com">m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com</a>     |
| Enviro NZ                                | Transport                | 027 509 6432   | <a href="mailto:Cullum.penman@enviro nz.co.nz">Cullum.penman@enviro nz.co.nz</a>           |
| N & J Wood                               | Transport                | 027 460 3223   | <a href="mailto:Accounts@njwood.co.nz">Accounts@njwood.co.nz</a>                           |
| Northland Waste Ltd                      | Transport                | 027 258 0532   | <a href="mailto:Andrew.slater@northlandwaste.co.nz">Andrew.slater@northlandwaste.co.nz</a> |
| NZ Safety Blackwoods                     | PPE Supplier             | 027 261 6397   | <a href="mailto:kate.hong@nzsafetyblackwoods.co.nz">kate.hong@nzsafetyblackwoods.co.nz</a> |