

# Essential Freshwater

## Feedlots and Other Stockholding Areas

These regulations outline rules that apply to feedlots and other stockholding areas such as feedpads, stand off pads, winter pads and loafing pads.

### Who do the regulations apply to?

Farms that are running cattle stock with:

- 5ha or more of horticulture
- 20ha or more of pasture or arable crops
- 20ha or more of a combination of any of these

### Why are there regulations?

Feedlots and intensive stockholding areas pose high environmental risks to freshwater if not managed well. Water quality degradation caused by these areas results from the volume and concentration of animal dung and urine (effluent) accumulating from holding cattle in a confined space. When feedlots and stockholding areas are not adequately designed, managed and/or sited, this effluent can leach into and pollute waterbodies as well as increase erosion.

### Definitions

#### Feedlot

A stockholding area where cattle:

- Are kept at least 80 days in any 6-month period and
- Are fed exclusively by hand or machine

#### Sacrifice paddock

An area which:

- cattle are repeatedly, but temporarily, contained (typically during extended periods of wet weather) and
- the resulting damage caused to the soil by pugging is so severe as to require resowing with pasture species

#### Stockholding area

- An area for holding cattle at density that means pasture or vegetative ground cover cannot be maintained (for example feed pads, winter pads, standoff pads, and loafing pads) but
- Does not include an area use for pastoral purposes that is in the nature of a stockyard, milking shed, wintering barn, or sacrifice paddock.

## What are the regulations?

What	Stock type	By
<b>Feedlots</b>	<p>Holding small and young cattle in a feedlot is a <b>permitted activity</b> (no resource consent required), if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% or more of the cattle held are no more than 4 months old, or</li> <li>• weigh no more than 120kg</li> </ul> <p>In any other case, a resource consent is needed.</p>	<p>3 Sept 2020 for all new feedlots</p> <p>3 March 2021 for all existing feedlots</p>
	<p>For holding older/heavier cattle in a feedlot, a <b>resource consent is required</b>. You must also comply with all the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the base area of the feedlot must be sealed to a minimum permeability standard of <math>10^{-9}</math> m/s (likely synthetic liner or concrete)</li> <li>• effluent is collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with the pMEP or your resource consent conditions</li> <li>• the stockholding area is at least 50m away from any water body, water bore, drain or the coastal marine area.</li> </ul>	
<b>Stockholding areas other than feedlots</b>	<p>Holding small and young cattle in a stockholding area is a <b>permitted activity</b> if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% or more of the cattle held are no more than 4 months old, or</li> <li>• weigh no more than 120kg</li> </ul>	<p>1 July 2021 for new stock holding areas</p> <p>31 Dec 2021 for existing stockholding</p>
	<p>For holding older/heavier cattle in a stockholding area is a <b>permitted activity</b> if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the base area of the feedlot is sealed to a minimum permeability standard of <math>10^{-9}</math> m/s (likely synthetic liner or concrete)</li> <li>• effluent is collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with the pMEP rules</li> <li>• the stockholding area is at least 50m away from any</li> <li>• water body, water bore, drain or the coastal marine area.</li> </ul> <p>If you cannot meet all these conditions, a resource consent is required.</p> <p>Note that the NES-F also allows for stockholding areas to be managed in accordance with a certified freshwater farm plan once these come into effect in Marlborough.</p>	
<b>Sacrifice Paddocks</b>	<p>There are no new rules that specifically cover sacrifice paddocks and they are excluded from the definition of a stockholding area. However, it is not OK to pollute waterways.</p> <p>Should your sacrifice paddock cause effluent, sediment or other contaminants to enter a waterbody you may still be subject to enforcement action.</p>	



## IS THIS A STOCKHOLDING AREA?

These conditions apply only if your stockholding area contains more than 10 per cent cattle that are older than 4 months or weigh more than 120 kg. If this does not apply, your stockholding area is permitted with no further conditions.

Are cattle held at a density that means pasture or other vegetative ground cover cannot be maintained eg, feed pads, winter pads, stand-off pads and loafing pads?

But not including an area used for pastoral purposes eg, stockyard, milking shed, wintering barn or sacrifice paddock?

NO

These regulations do not apply

### Is it a feedlot?

Cattle are kept for at least 80 days in any six-month period.

Cattle are fed exclusively by hand or machine.

NO

YES

### Stockholding regulations apply when the stockholding area:

has a base area sealed to a minimum permeability standard of  $10^{-9}$  m/s

has expelled effluent being collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with a rule in a regional or district plan

is located at least 50 m away from any waterbody, water abstraction bore, or drain and the coastal marine area.

NO

YES

### Discretionary activity

Resource consent required

### Permitted activity

### Are 90 per cent or more of the cattle held in the feedlot:

younger than four months

under 120 kg.

YES

NO

Permitted activity

### Feedlot regulations apply

When the feedlot:

has a base area sealed to a minimum permeability standard of  $10^{-9}$  m/s

has expelled effluent being collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with a rule in a regional or district plan

is located at least 50 m away from any waterbody, water abstraction bore or drain and the coastal marine area.

YES

NO

### Discretionary activity

Resource consent required

### Non-complying

Resource consent required

## STOCKHOLDING AREA



### INCLUDES:

- Feed pads
- Winter pads
- Stand-off pads
- Loafing pads

### DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Wintering barns
- Sacrifice paddocks
- Stockyards
- Milking sheds
- Woolsheds
- Calf raising

### Are there any other useful resources available?

[MfE stockholding and feedlots factsheet](#)

[Feedlots and stockholding areas policy](#)

[Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Freshwater\) Regulations 2020](#)

[MPI animal containment facility information](#)

[Summary of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Supply](#)

## Contact the MDC Environmental Protection Team

[monitoring@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:monitoring@marlborough.govt.nz)

### Need a resource consent?

Apply for one online at:

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/applying-for-a-resource-consent](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/applying-for-a-resource-consent)

Contact the duty planner via the form on our website:

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/duty-planner-service-information/dutyplanner-enquiry-form](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/duty-planner-service-information/dutyplanner-enquiry-form)

Phone customer services on 03 520 7400

Or visit the Marlborough District Council in person at:

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim  
2 Dublin Street, Picton

[marlborough.govt.nz](http://marlborough.govt.nz)