

# *Dairy farm effluent*

## *– the rules for achieving compliance in Hawke's Bay*

**This checklist is a self audit to give farmers confidence they will pass a Hawke's Bay Regional Council Compliance Assessment. The checklist is for your own information and you do not have to share it with any organisation.**

**The conditions discussed in this checklist cover the main areas contributing to non-compliance in Hawke's Bay over the past three seasons. Consent conditions vary from farm to farm hence there are additional conditions you are required to meet that are not listed below. Check your consent conditions.**

**We recommend any boxes that are not ticked are followed up as soon as possible, as they could result in Hawke's Bay Regional Council non-compliance. If you need assistance, please contact one of the organisations listed on the back of the checklist.**

- You must remain compliant with your consent requirements every day – regardless of the time of year, weather, breakdowns or staffing issues
- Ensure you have a contingency plan in place to cope with breakdowns and other scenarios
- Make sure the staff on your farm know the rules, are familiar with your consent, are fully trained in the operation and maintenance of the effluent system, and know what to do and who to contact if the system breaks down
- Always aim for best practice rather than just achieving compliance.

### *A note on new dairy conversions:*

- It is important for the owner to liaise with the Council at the earliest opportunity, to help with consent processing and timeframes.
- All new conversions in Hawkes Bay require adequately sized effluent storage facilities to be put in place at the time of conversion. Capacity of storage is to be determined using the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator.



# Hawke's Bay checklist



## Get familiar with the conditions of your resource consent and actively seek compliance

*Much of the non-compliance reported in Hawke's Bay is for issues that can be easily avoided. Take the time to go through your consent and make sure all the administrative conditions have been fulfilled*

### Storage pond

Storage pond has at least 500mm of freeboard at all times to allow for wet weather

Storage pond does not overflow

Storage pond is maintained regularly so there is minimal crusting or vegetation on the surface, it is desludged and has no seepage or leaking

### Stone traps/sand traps and sludge

Are cleaned out regularly

Effluent solids, sludges, and slurries (i.e. from ponds, feedpads, and stone/sand trap cleanings) are stored on a sealed surface which drains back into the effluent system. Solids are spread on pasture to avoid overloading with nutrients in one area

### Effluent sampling

Know your specific consent condition requirement regarding the frequency of effluent sampling

Effluent sample results are provided to Hawke's Bay Regional Council. These can be sent directly by the laboratory if you request the service

### Stormwater diversion

If your consent requires a stormwater diversion to be in place, ensure it is in working order

### Irrigator calibration

Calibrate your effluent irrigator at least twice per year, and have results available for Hawke's Bay Regional Council compliance visit

Irrigator application depth (mm) and rate (mm/hr) satisfies the requirement of the consent

### Ponding and runoff

There is sufficient effluent storage for times when soil is too wet to irrigate

Apply effluent at an application rate (mm/hr) and depth (mm) which maximises nutrient uptake and does not result in ponding and effluent runoff

### Effluent application records

Record the date and application area for each effluent irrigation episode

Records are kept up-to-date and are available for viewing



### People and systems (these are not conditions of your consent, but will help you and your staff comply)

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| Everyone in the farming operation understands the importance of effluent management and the consequences of non-compliance   |  |
| Everyone knows what to do or who to notify, if something goes wrong. Have spare parts available on farm where possible   |  |
| A training schedule is maintained for staff with direct effluent management responsibilities   |  |
| An effluent management plan is in place that clearly defines responsibilities and procedures. Best practice: record effluent irrigator runs – where, when, date, number of returns etc |  |
| Ensure there is an effluent system maintenance schedule in place and that people assigned responsibilities know how to carry them out correctly  |  |

**Disclaimer:** The information that appears in this checklist is intended to provide the best possible compliance guides for dairy farm effluent practices. However, the information is provided as a general guidance only and is not intended as a substitute for specific advice. Practices, systems and advice may vary depending on the circumstances applicable to your situation. The information may also be subject to change at any time without notice. DairyNZ, Federated Farmers, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Fonterra take no responsibility whatsoever for the currency and/or accuracy of this information, its completeness or fitness for purpose.

## Contacts

If you need assistance with any compliance issues on your farm, call one of these organisations for help:

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>DairyNZ</b>                      | Sustainability team 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)                          |
| <b>Fonterra</b>                     | Sustainable Dairying Team 0800 65 65 68                                       |
| <b>Hawke's Bay Regional Council</b> | Keith Peacock 06 8338097, Simon Moffitt 06 8338074, Brendan Powell 06 8338056 |
| <b>Federated Farmers</b>            | 0800 Farming (0800 327 6464)  |
| <b>Primary ITO</b>                  | 0800 80 20 80   |