

# Feed pads/lots



A feed pad/lot is a fenced in or enclosed area that is used for feeding or loafing cattle or deer and all the feed is brought to the animals. The aim of these facilities is to avoid damage to pasture when soils are saturated, and can be located indoors or outdoors. It includes ‘sacrifice paddocks’, wintering pads, stand-off pads, calving pads, loafing pads, and self-feed silage storage facilities.



**There are new rules in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan that cover these structures as there are risks to water quality and soil health if a feed pad/lot is poorly designed, located or managed. Properly designed and managed feed pads (or wintering pads or standoff pads) can reduce the amount of pugging that occurs on pastures over the winter months. They are also beneficial to stock health.**

A permitted activity means you can undertake an activity without needing a resource consent. Under the proposed plan, you can now have more than one feed pad/lot on your property without needing a consent as long as you meet the criteria outlined in the rule.

**This includes:**

- It does not have more than 120 adult cattle or 250 adult deer on a feed pad/lot longer than three months (or equivalent numbers of young stock)
- The pad/lot is not located within:
  - 50 metres of a watercourse, dwelling on same landholding, road or subsurface drain
  - 200 metres of any dwelling not on the same landholding
  - 20 metres from the boundary of any other landholding
  - 100 metres from a water abstraction point
  - 250 metres of a microbial health protection zone. These areas are outlined in Appendix J
- It has a sealed and impermeable base and any liquid effluent or stormwater is directed to an effluent system; or it has minimum 500mm base of wood-based material
- Material from the feed pad/lot is collected and applied in accordance with Rule 38 (Spreading of Animal and Vegetative waste).
- Overland flow or stormwater is prevented from entering the feed pad/lot.

If you can't meet these criteria you will need to apply for a consent.

You'll also need to look at Rule 38, which covers the discharge of sludge from feed pad/lots.

## Definitions

**Effluent** - a liquid waste that generally comes from on-site wastewater systems, community sewerage schemes, agricultural activities, and industrial processes

**Landholding** - an area of land used as a single operating unit. Please refer to the full definition in the plan, or contact the consents team if you are unsure whether your property is one or more landholdings.

**Subsurface drainage systems** – an underground systems installed to drain water or moisture from land. These systems can include tile, mole, concrete and clay drains, wooden box drains and plastic subsurface drainage pipes. Stormwater systems, drainage by use of sumps, and on-site wastewater systems are not included in this definition.

## Questions

**Q: How many feed pads am I allowed on my property?**

**A:** There is no limit to the number of feed pads/lots per landholding so long as you meet the permitted activity criteria for each one.

**Q: What is a sacrifice paddock?**

**A:** A sacrifice paddock is a small area of the farm used for stock to avoid damage to valuable pasture. The sacrifice paddock can make problems like mud and manure manageable and decreases pasture maintenance. This paddock is often purposefully located to reduce farm labour when tending to stock and should be located away from waterways.

**Q: Is my self-feed silage stack considered a feed pad/lot?**

**A:** Yes, if cattle are grazing directly.

**Q: If I add supplementary feed to pasture or a crop paddock, is this considered a feed pad/lot?**

**A:** No, this is not considered a feed pad/lot

**Q: I am able to plumb my feed pad directly to my existing effluent storage system?**

**A:** Yes. However, feed pads/lots have a large surface area and are capable of generating a lot of effluent. Before they can be plumbed to an existing system you need to ensure that there is enough storage. This would require a Dairy Effluent Storage Calculation and a variation to your existing dairy discharge consent.

**Q: Am I able to use my feed pad year round?**

**A:** If the feed pad is used for longer than a three month period consent is required. This would also have to be reflected in a Dairy Effluent Storage Calculation if plumbed in to an existing effluent storage system.

The information provided is based on Rule 35A in the decisions version of the proposed *Southland Water and Land Plan*, April 2018.

*If you're thinking about making a change to your farming activity, it's important to remember what the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan is striving towards. Don't forget to address the objectives and policies*

*alongside the relevant rules when you are making an application for resource consent. The objectives and policies are the key drivers of the rules and need to be considered carefully.*

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