

Collected Animal Effluent

Updated May 2021

Objective - Animal effluent and solid animal waste is managed to minimise nutrient leaching and run-off.

Target 1 - Effluent systems meet industry Codes of Practice or an equivalent standard.

Thing you can do:

- Make sure all new effluent systems are designed according to [Farm Dairy Effluent Code of Practice standards](#).
- Use an [Accredited Company](#) to design your effluent system - make sure the system design is suited to the soil type, topography and climate.
- For old systems, consider completing a [dairy effluent Warrant of Fitness \(WOF\)](#) to identify risks in your system.
- Effluent is collected from all sources – dairy sheds, yards, feed pads and underpasses.
- Ensure the area where effluent is being applied complies with your consent (calculated on OVERSEER).

Records/Evidence you can keep:

- Copy of your consent.**
- Copy of a map with the consented area for effluent application.**
- Dairy NZ WOF.**
- Copy of the design specifications of your effluent system.**
- Backflow prevention test results.**

Target 2 - The timing and rate of application of effluent and solid animal waste to land is managed so as to minimise the risk of contamination of groundwater or surface water bodies.

Things you can do:

- Make sure that the soil moisture status is considered before applying effluent. Effluent should not be applied when soil conditions are near field capacity.
- Make sure effluent is not applied directly to or within 50 metres of a waterway
- Complete a bucket test annually to calibrate effluent irrigators/spreader to ensure you effluent is being spread evenly and at the desired rate.
- Complete soil tests on the areas where effluent is applied and adjust fertiliser application rates accordingly.
- Identify and record risk areas, such as waterways, unproductive land, tracks, dips and swales for effluent application on a map and make sure staff know effluent isn't applied in or close to these areas.

Records/Evidence you can keep:

- Application depth, location, current soil moisture status and time of liquid and solid effluent applications (e.g Dairy Diary).**

- Bucket/calibration tests.**

Target 3 - Sufficient and suitable storage is available to enable animal effluent and wash-down water to be stored when soil conditions are unsuitable for application.

Things you can do:

- If building new storage, use an accredited effluent designer.
- Use the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator (DESC) to figure out how much storage you need to have.
- Make sure your storage capacity meets the volume recommended by the DESC at a minimum (note: this is not the total volume of your pond(s), but the amount left once you take out space for the sludge/sediment settlement on the bottom of the pond and the freeboard at the top of the pond).
- Know how much storage you have available.
- Make sure storage ponds are sealed to avoid leakage, e.g. Fill cracks in concrete, keep the storage construction certificate, undertake a drop test to measure leakage, avoid overflows.
- Routinely remove effluent solids that accumulate.

Records/Evidence you can keep:

- Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator and/or effluent pond design specifications.**

Target 4 - Staff are trained in the operation, maintenance and use of effluent storage and application systems.

Things you can do:

- Know how much effluent your equipment applies at the different settings.
- Know what the design specifications should be for your system (e.g. design flow rate and pressure) and create a schedule to check your system is operating as it should.
- Service effluent pumping equipment.
- Ensure your staff are trained to maintain your gear effectively.
- Provide staff with a checklist of things to do and when, such as getting to them to complete [DairyNZ's Effluent Management Plan](#) Poster.

Records/Evidence you can keep:

- Effluent management plan.**
- DIY maintenance records.**
- Maintenance receipts.**
- Staff training records.**
- Events log.**
- Standard operating procedures.**