

Farm Environment Plan Audit Checklist

During your FEP audit, the auditor will undertake a level of confidence assessment to determine where you are achieving the good management practice targets and objectives. Evidence of your practices will help improve the auditor's level of confidence. The list below will help give you an idea of the types of records that will be useful to have on hand either electronically or in hard copy.

Irrigation Management - The amount and timing of irrigation is managed to meet plant demands, minimise risk of leaching and runoff and ensure efficient water use.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
New Irrigation	Commissioning certification, accredited designer used, system design specifications, irrigation evaluation report	
Operation/Performance of Irrigators	DIY Maintenance records, winter service invoice/s, bucket test results, pressure or application spot check results, water take records, system assessment reports	
Irrigation Scheduling	Water application records, soil moisture records or soil water budget, rainfall and temperature records	
Staff Training	Staff training records, irrigation procedures, induction records, discussions with staff, workshop/course certificates	
<i>Advanced Mitigation:</i> Irrigation Scheduling <small>*For more info, talk to ALIL.</small>	Efficient systems Differential irrigation Strategic Irrigation Scheduling Accuracy of tools	
<i>Advanced Mitigation:</i> Irrigation Training <small>*For more info, talk to ALIL.</small>	Training to understand the property's irrigation system and its limitations. Understanding risk of drainage by irrigation management zone	

Nutrient Management - (1) Use nutrients efficiently and minimize nutrient losses to water. (2) Nutrient losses do not exceed consented nitrogen loss limits.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Identifying Nutrient Losses	Up to date OVERSEER Nutrient budget, or another approved Nitrogen Loss model	
Nutrient Management	Soil test results, fertiliser and application records, advisor recommendations, spreader calibration records, proof of placement, Spreadmark certification, crop calculators, GPS records, milk production (kg MS/season), imported supplementary feeds, yield or harvest maps	
<i>Advanced Mitigation:</i> Fertiliser Management *For more info, talk to ALIL.	Base soil fertility Identification of variability Targeted application Adaptive management	
<i>Advanced Mitigation:</i> Nitrogen Surplus Reduction *For more info, talk to ALIL.	Risk assessment understanding the nitrogen bought on farm and how it is removed, stored in soil and how it is being lost. Pasture or crop N uptake optimised Applicable nitrogen loss mitigations	

Animal Effluent and Solid Animal Waste - Animal effluent and solid animal waste is managed to minimise nutrient leaching and run-off.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Application	Discharge area map, effluent exclusion zone/s map, application records, soil moisture monitoring records, bucket test/calibration results of effluent irrigator	
Storage	Effluent storage pond specifications, Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator, System designed by an accredited designer Impermeable pad for solids or manure	
Staff Training	Effluent management plan, operating procedures, induction records	

Waterbodies (wetlands, riparian areas, drains, rivers, lakes) - Wetlands, riparian areas and the margins of surface waterbodies are managed to avoid damage to the bed and margins of the water body, and to avoid the direct input of nutrients, sediment, and microbial pathogens.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Livestock	Compliance with relevant local council and ECan rules, stock exclusion plan, fencing	
Waterways & riparian	Riparian planting plans, buffer zones, photos	
Critical Source Areas	Track or lane maintenance invoices, photos	

Mahinga Kai	Map identifying areas of significance, summary of management or of mitigations to protect the area. https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/fep/mahinga-kai/	
Cultivation & Soil Structures - The physical and biological condition of soils is maintained or improved in order to minimise the movement of sediment, phosphorus and other contaminants to waterways.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Erosion Management	Cultivation & crop records	
Optimising soil structure	Re-grassing plan & winter grazing management plan https://www.dairynz.co.nz/publications/seasonal/wintering-standard-operating-procedure/	
Point Sources (offal pits, farm rubbish pits, silage pits) - The number and location of pits are managed to minimise risks to health and water quality.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Offal, silage and rubbish pits	Pit location map, compliance with the Permitted Activity rules: https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download/?uri=3759166	
Water Use (excluding irrigation water) - To use water efficiently ensuring that actual use of water is monitored and efficient.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Operation and efficiency	Water use data, maintenance records, dairy shed water management plan, stockwater system maintenance	
Community Drinking Water Protection Zones – Quality of drinking water supplies do not deteriorate as a result of land use activities within the Community Drinking Water Protection Zone Impacted Land (Only applicable to some ALIL properties)		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Land management to prevent deterioration	Irrigation maintenance records, bucket test results, irrigation scheduling records, nutrient management records, soil test results, fertiliser application records, fertiliser recommendations	
Maintain records	Maintain sufficient records and ensure CDWPZ Risk Assessment is being implemented	
Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) – Additional requirements of the ALIL Environmental Management Strategy met.		
Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Sites of cultural significance (Only applicable on some ALIL properties)	Visual assessment to ensure practices align with FEP	
Property Parameters	Ensure property is in line with parameters in FEP and/or ALIL Property Parameter Report	
Farm Activity Variation Application (FAVA) (Only applicable where an application has been applied for)	Ensure conditions within FAVA Application Response Letter are met	

Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) – Intensive winter grazing is managed to minimise nutrient leaching and run-off.

Target Areas	Examples of Evidence	Check
Adverse effects are minimised	Winter Grazing Plan demonstrating paddocks grazed, how they are grazed, wet weather management plan, location of Critical Source Areas A Winter Grazing Plan can be found at: https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/l53clymf/your-winter-grazing-plan-on-the-ground-action-this-winter-2024.pdf	
Vegetation established as soon as practically possible after grazing	Winter Grazing Plan Discussions and records of crop rotation records	
Critical Source Areas	Grazing of these areas are avoided Vegetation cover is maintained	