

# GRAZING WINTER CROPS

## A SUMMARY OF HBRC RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Winter crops are heavily stocked areas. All vegetative cover is lost which can lead to nutrients leaching into groundwater and/or running off into surface water.

### WINTER GRAZING

The Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan allows winter grazing as a permitted activity. However, if not managed properly, winter grazing can fall into the category of a feedlot or feedpad for which resource consent may be required.

### FEEDLOT

The Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP) describes a feedlot as an area of land on which animals are kept and fed, for more than 15 days in any 30-day period, where the stocking density or feedlot structure, such as a concrete pad, precludes the maintenance of pasture or ground cover. Strip grazing could be included under this definition if not managed appropriately.

### FEEDPAD

A feedpad is an area of land to which animals are brought for supplementary feeding on a regular basis, where the stocking density or feedpad structure precludes the maintenance of pasture or groundcover.



### KEY POINTS:

- Hawke's Bay Regional Council will be taking a more active approach to ensure that all winter grazing feedlots and feedpads comply with existing rules.
- When stock are grazed on an area of land for more than 15 out of 30 days and where grass or crop cover is lost, the land falls into the definition of a feedlot.
- Runoff into a water body must be avoided.
- If you are not sure what to do, contact Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Ask for the guide to good environmental practice for winter crops.



### RELEVANT RULES

Winter grazing or operating a feedlot or feedpad is a permitted activity as long as the activity complies with relevant rules in the RRMP.

#### Rule 49: Discharges to land that may enter water

Rule 49e states there shall be no surface ponding in the area of discharge, or runoff of any contaminant into a surface water body as a result of the discharge.

#### Rule 5: Feedlots and Feedpads:

- a) The land used for the feedlot or feedpad shall be managed in a manner that prevents any seepage of contaminants into groundwater.
- b) The feedlot or feedpad shall be located no less than 20 metres from any surface water body.
- c) The feedlot or feedpad shall be located no less than:
  - i. 150 metres from a residential building or any other building being part of a place of assembly on another site
  - ii. 50 metres from a property boundary, and
  - iii. 20 metres from a public road.
- d) Runoff from the surrounding catchment area is prevented from entering the feedlot or feedpad.

Rule 5 footnote: At any time, Council may request information from the operator of a feedlot or feedpad to confirm compliance with Rule 5a.

Rules in the Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan can be found at [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz), keyword: #RRMP and go to Chapter 6.

### DO I NEED A RESOURCE CONSENT?

A resource consent is needed if the rules cannot be complied with. HBRC expects that, if a consent is required, it will be applied for in advance of an operation commencing or, in the case of an ongoing operation, now.

A resource consent is likely to have conditions that require surface runoff to be avoided or controlled.

The Compliance section of HBRC will be actively monitoring feedlots and feedpads. Enforcement action may be taken for any non-compliance.



#### For more information contact:

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Land Management: Warwick Hesketh - 06 833 8001  
Consents: Paul Barrett - 06 833 8014  
[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz), #landmanagement