

FACTSHEET

FEED PADS

A feed pad or feed lot is a fenced in or enclosed area that is used for feeding or loafing of cattle or deer. It includes wintering pads, stand-off pads, loafing pads, and self-feed silage storage facilities. The aim of a feed pad is to avoid damage to pasture when soils are saturated by removing stock from the pasture. Feed pads are required to be managed as there are risks to water quality and soil health if it is poorly designed, located or managed.

Feed pads and stockholding areas are managed through the Southland Water and Land Plan and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. You will need to check the rules in both the national standards and the plan to see if your feed pad is permitted.

In order to be permitted, the following conditions must be met:

- The feed pad is not within a critical source area.
- The feed pad is setback at least:
 - ▶ 20m from the boundary of another landholding
 - ▶ 200m from any dwelling or public space not on the same landholding
 - ▶ 250m from a drinking water supply site shown in Appendix J, or not within a microbial health protection zone shown in Appendix J of the plan.
 - ▶ 50m from a subsurface drain, lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse, natural wetland or the coastal marine area.
- The feed pad is constructed with either:
 - ▶ A sealed and impermeable base, and effluent or stormwater containing effluent is collected and stored in a sealed effluent storage facility; or
 - ▶ A minimum depth of 500mm of wood-based material across the base of the pad.

In addition, once you've collected the material from your feed pad, you will need to meet the criteria in Rule 38 for discharging the animal and vegetative waste to land.

If you cannot meet one or more of these conditions, you will need to apply for a consent.

Definitions:

Feed pad or feed lot - a fenced or enclosed area located on production land used for feeding or loafing of cattle or deer to avoid damage to pasture when soils are saturated, and which can be located either indoors or outdoors. It includes wintering pads, stand-off pads, calving pads, loafing pads, and self-feed silage storage facilities.

Landholding

- a. Any area of land, including land separated by a road or river or modified watercourse, held in one or more than one ownership, that is utilised as a single operating unit, and may include one or more certificates of title; except
- b. For land with a residential, commercial, industrial, infrastructural, or recreational zoning or designation in the relevant district plan means any area of land comprised wholly of one Certificate of Title or any Allotment as defined by Section 218 of the RMA.

Please read the plan for full definitions.

Common questions and answers

We've listed the answers to some commonly asked questions here. If you're still not sure about what you need to do or have another question you want help with, give our consents team a call on 0800 76 88 45.

▶ How many feed pads am I allowed on my property?

There is no limit on the number of feed pads or feedlots per landholding, provided the permitted activity criteria can be met for each one.

▶ Is my self-feed silage stack considered a feed pad?

Yes, if cattle or deer are grazing directly and contained in a fenced or enclosed area.

▶ Am I able to use my feed pad year-round?

Yes, feed pads are not restricted on the length of time cattle or deer can be enclosed but as the effluent must be collected from the feed pad it is important that this additional effluent has been calculated in your effluent storage consent.

▶ I have a clay/woodchip based calving pad/stand-off pad/feed pad. Does it meet the permeability standard?

No, it doesn't meet the permeability standard. Liquid effluent can still infiltrate both woodchip and clay. If you have a clay/woodchip based calving pad/stand-off pad/feed pad you will need to apply for a resource consent.

▶ If I put a roof over my calving pad/ stand-off pad/feed pad, will I need a consent?

You will not need a consent under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater as a stockholding area does not include an area used for pastoral purposes like in a winter barn. However, you may still need a consent under the Southland Water and Land Plan.

▶ What is the difference between wintering barns, feed pads, stockholding areas, sacrifice paddock and feed lots?

- A wintering barn has a roof and is therefore not a stockholding area or a feed pad as defined in the National Environmental Standards for freshwater. However, it is considered to be a feed pad/lot as defined in the plan.
- A feed pad without a roof is a stockholding area if it holds cattle.
- A feed pad is not a stockholding area if it holds any animal other than cattle.
- A sacrifice paddock is specifically excluded from being a stockholding area. However there is a rule for sacrifice paddocks, see rule 35B in the plan.
- A feed lot is a stockholding area that holds cattle for more than 80 days in any six-month period which are fed exclusively by hand or machine.

Note that there are different permitted criteria and conditions which apply between the plan and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.

▶ Is there a minimum period that triggers stockholding area regulations? For example, can I put my cows on the laneway for 1 day without triggering these requirements?

No. If you are holding cattle in that location, then it becomes a stockholding area and will trigger the rule in the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. If they are simply walking along a lane/ race or can feed from a feed lane as they walk to their paddock, then they are not held, and it is not a stockholding area or a feed pad under both the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater and the plan.

▶ Is a sacrifice paddock considered as feed pad?

No, a sacrifice paddock is managed separately to a feed pad, under Rule 35B.