



FACTSHEET

SACRIFICE PADDOCKS

Sacrifice paddocks are used as a way of temporarily containing stock in an area typically during adverse weather events to reduce soil damage, minimise risks to the environment and protect animal welfare. The level of pugging that occurs in a sacrifice paddock means that the paddock is likely to need re-sowing with new pasture after the stock are removed.

Rule 35B in the Southland Water and Land Plan manages the use of land for sacrifice paddocks by cattle and deer.

Any planning and decisions around the use of a sacrifice paddock needs to be a part of a Farm Environmental Management Plan. This plan will need to identify where on your farm you intend to use sacrifice paddocks, how you will manage sediment loss, and explain what you will do in an adverse weather event.

The use of land for a sacrifice paddock by cattle or deer is permitted if you can meet the following conditions:

- The paddock is not used as a sacrifice paddock for more than a total of 60 days over a 12- month period
- The paddock is not in forage crop
- The total area of sacrifice paddocks per year does not exceed:
 - ▶ 5ha if the landholding is under 500ha
 - ▶ 1% or 30ha if the landholding is over 500ha, whichever is the lesser
- Stock must be separated by a vegetated setback at least:
 - ▶ 10m from waterways and natural wetlands where paddock slope is under 10 degrees
 - ▶ 20m from a Regionally Significant Wetland of Sensitive Waterbody
 - ▶ 20m from waterways and natural wetlands where paddock slope is over 10 degrees
- A Farm Environmental Management Plan is prepared, certified and audited in accordance with Appendix N in the Southland Water and Land Plan
- Any critical source areas within the sacrifice paddock are identified in the Farm Environmental Management Plan and have stock excluded from them
- If the paddock requires replanting, this is done as soon as practicable
- The paddock is not at an altitude over 800m above mean sea level

If you cannot meet one or more of these conditions, you will need to apply for a resource consent. If you are unsure, please get in touch with one of our consent officers for advice on 0800 76 88 45.

Definitions:

Sacrifice paddock means as an area where stock are temporarily contained (typically during extended periods of wet weather); and the resulting damage caused to the soil by pugging is so severe as to require resowing with pasture species.

Critical source area

Landscape feature, such as a gully, swale or depression, that accumulates runoff from adjacent land and delivers (or has the potential to deliver) contaminates to a waterway or subsurface drain.

Please read the plan for full definitions.



A good example of a sacrifice paddock.

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.

► What stock type does the sacrifice rule apply to?

The sacrifice paddock rule applies to cattle and deer, but it is still recommended that the good management practices set out in the rule are followed for other stock types too.

► How many stock units can I hold in a sacrifice paddock in Southland?

There is no limit to the number of cattle or deer you can hold in a sacrifice paddock within the rule, but it is important to allow sufficient space to enable the stock to exhibit normal behaviour patterns relating to resting, rumination and play, and to minimise aggression within the group. There is some guidance around the animal welfare codes found here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/animals/animal-welfare/codes/all-animal-welfare-codes/#codes>

► Why do I need to put the location of my sacrifice paddocks into my Farm Environmental Management Plan?

Sacrifice paddocks can have varying degrees of risk associated with them, depending on where they are located on your farm. To ensure that risk is managed appropriately, the location of sacrifice paddocks must be considered as part of your Farm Environmental Management Plan.