



November 2012

Farm dairy effluent storage assessments

Q & A for dairy effluent consent holders

Introduction

Greater Wellington (GW) is encouraging all dairy farms to undertake effluent storage assessments. This is to ensure that application of farm dairy effluent (FDE) to land can meet existing requirements on FDE consents. Below are some questions and answers as you consider undertaking a farm dairy effluent storage assessment:

1. Why are dairy effluent storage assessments being encouraged at this time?

GW with support from Fonterra and Dairy NZ has overseen the extension of the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator to the Wellington region. This now means that FDE designers can utilise this tool when providing advice on upgrading or changing your FDE system.

2. Does my resource consent require me to do a dairy effluent storage assessment?

The majority of FDE consents do not have specific conditions that require a dairy effluent storage assessment to be undertaken. However, the majority of FDE consents have standards and terms on the consents that set a compliance requirement that no contaminants are able to enter water as a result of inadequate storage facilities and application of effluent to water-logged or flooded land.

Many dairy farms in the Wellington region have only one day of effluent storage. GW believes that this level of storage is inadequate at certain times of the year when there are water-logged soils. Hence it is most likely that many dairy farms are unlikely to comply with the standards and terms on their FDE consents.

Fonterra's expectations are that effluent systems are designed and managed in a manner that comply with Regional Council resource consents for 365 days per year.

So in summary, whilst there are likely to be no specific requirements on your FDE consent to undertake a dairy effluent storage assessment, in order to comply with your consent, an assessment is strongly recommended.



3. If I milk year round, what are the expectations of me?

GW believes that all year round milkers are unlikely to be able to comply with the standards and terms on their FDE consents. Hence GW is requesting all year round milkers to undertake a dairy effluent storage assessment by **31 May 2013**.

If an assessment is not completed during the 2012/2013 season, GW staff will undertake additional inspections for year round milkers after 31 May 2013

to check compliance with FDE consents. If you are a year round milker, and it is demonstrated that you are not complying with your FDE consent, it is likely that you will receive an abatement notice or a review of your FDE consent which will require a dairy effluent storage assessment to be undertaken.

4. Will there be further inspections in certain locations?

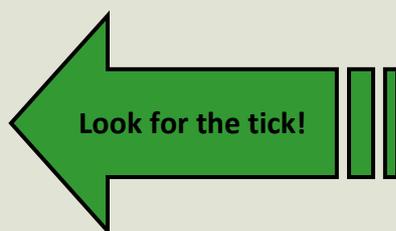
From this year, GW compliance staff will undertake targeted inspections in the Lake Wairarapa and Mangatarere catchments to assess how FDE systems are performing and complying with FDE consents. Also dairy farms located in areas of public drinking water supplies are likely to receive a targeted inspection. In future years, other catchments will receive a targeted inspection.

5. Do I need to undertake a farm dairy effluent storage assessment when I apply for my next consent or change my existing consent?

Yes. From November 2012, any resource consent applications will require a dairy effluent storage assessment to be included as part of any application.

6. Who can undertake a farm dairy effluent storage assessment?

GW supports the Dairy Effluent Design Accreditation Programme. A list of accredited companies who undertake FDE design and storage assessments can be found on www.effluentaccreditation.co.nz.



7. How will I know if any farm dairy effluent storage assessment and upgrade plans comply with GW requirements?

If you have undertaken a dairy effluent storage assessment voluntarily, GW recommends that you provide us with the assessment and any upgrade plans. We will then check your assessment and upgrade plans and provide advice as to whether they will meet the standards and terms of your FDE consent.

8. Is there any cost for GW to review my farm dairy effluent storage assessment?

If you have undertaken a dairy effluent storage assessment voluntarily, there will be no charge for any

staff time spent by GW in reviewing your assessment and upgrade plans.

If you have been requested to undertake a dairy effluent storage assessment as part of an abatement notice, review of your FDE consent, or a resource consent application, any staff time spent by GW reviewing your assessment and upgrade plans will be charged.

Hence it is strongly recommended that you undertake your dairy effluent storage assessment prior to any formal request from GW staff.

9. If I construct an effluent storage pond, what sort of liner would be required?

It is GW's expectation that the permeability of a liner of any effluent storage pond should not be less than 1×10^{-9} . An artificial liner will achieve this permeability standard.



10. If I have an existing pond, will my current storage and lining suffice?

This will ultimately be determined in completing a farm dairy effluent storage assessment. Testing of the permeability of your existing liner will be required in conjunction with assessing current storage volumes against storage volumes predicted by the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator.

11. Where else can I get further advice and support?

In addition to the FDE designers and further information provided at www.dairynz.co.nz and www.effluentaccreditation.co.nz, feel free to contact any of the staff at the following organisations:

Fonterra – Grant Rudman (Wgton/Kapiti) 06 3517703
Fonterra – Geoff Ewington (Wairarapa) 06 3760972
Dairy NZ – Logan Bowler 06 3505498
GW – Paula Pickford (consents), 06 8261605
GW – Steven Orr (compliance) 06 8261547