

Southland Effluent Factsheet

Guidelines for Southland farmers transporting stock to and from the run-off

This Factsheet provides information about the preparation and management of dairy cows for transport between farms and to and from 'run-off' or wintering blocks only. On the reverse side it provides guidance about receiving effluent from stock trucks.

For information about other situations, please see 'Further Information' below.

- Make sure your stock are fit for transport:
 - In good condition
 - Can bear weight on all four limbs
 - Able to withstand the stress of transport
- Handle pregnant animals with care and patience at all times
- Provide magnesium for 3-4 days either side of transport (J = 12g/cow/day, F = 20g/cow/day)
- To reduce effluent production, stand stock off green feed for a minimum of 4 hours before transport, but not more than 12 hours
- If using supplementary feed, introduce it into the diet gradually
- Do not stand cows off on bare concrete for more than 12 hours
- Grazed-off pasture or a wood chip pad are preferred over concrete for standing off
- If using blanket dry cow therapy, milk cows out completely before treatment and transport within 24 hours. If not using blanket dry cow therapy, cows should be dried off at least three weeks before transportation. Check udders weekly for mastitis and treat any clinical cases
- Provide immediate access to feed and water on arrival.

Further Information

- **Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand**
(<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/transport/index.htm>).
- **Dairy NZ Farm Fact 3-1, Magnesium supplementation**
(<http://www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145836777>).
- **DairyNZ Feed Information Sheet**
(<http://www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145836849>).



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Discharging effluent on-farm from stock trucks

- ONLY ACCEPT or receive effluent when it has come from your stock, or stock that will be integrated into an existing herd on the farm
- DO NOT accept effluent from unknown or mixed sources (e.g. if not all stock on the truck are yours)
- DO NOT accept effluent unless you can be assured the tanks were empty before the stock were loaded
- CHECK stock truck tanks are EMPTY before loading stock
- DO NOT accept any effluent originating from deer
- There are no regulations to prevent farmers receiving effluent from stock truck holding tanks. However, receiving effluent from unknown or mixed sources greatly increases the risk of introducing a disease onto your farm
- Effluent can be discharged onto the dairy yard or within 45m of the milking area, milk receiving area or milk storage area but, the receiving area must be a concrete or sealed surface and it must be hosed down (into the effluent system) and not left or stored on the yard or sealed area
- All drains that receive the stock effluent must be flushed with clean water and any spillages onto grass or the surrounding area removed and cleaned up immediately
- Effluent must be discharged in accordance with Council policies, rules and consent conditions
- Observe the health of new stock regularly, especially if you have recently discharged effluent onto your pasture
- Know the status of all new stock being brought onto the farm
- Always implement and maintain animal health, testing and recording programmes.

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