

FACTSHEET

Stockholding areas

October 2022

Stockholding areas - what does this mean for me?

Under the *National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020*, the Government introduced regulations for stockholding areas. If you have a stockholding area, or plan to develop one, then these new regulations might affect you.

These regulations specifically **do not** apply to stockyards (including use for yard weaning), milking sheds, woolsheds, calf raising, wintering barns, sacrifice paddocks, keeping cattle in laneways (**without** supplementary feed) or keeping cattle in forestry blocks. However, these may be subject to regional regulations.

What is a stockholding area?

Typically, a stockholding area is where:

- cattle are held at a density (typically for long or frequent periods), and
- pasture or other vegetative ground cover cannot be maintained.

In stockholding areas, the risk of effluent and nutrient loss to water is increased through overland run-off or leaching through the soil profile.

Examples* of stock holding areas include (but not limited to):



Feed pads



Winter pads



Stand-off and loafing pads



Silage pits (where cattle are directly fed)

*Images taken from *Stockholding definition guidance*. Ministry for the Environment. 2022, available at <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/stockholding-definition-guidance/>. Visit this document for more information about each of these examples.

Why do we need to manage stockholding areas?

Stockholding areas can pose environmental risks. Good management, especially through farm planning, ensures that freshwater health is protected, and erosion risk is minimised. The stockholding regulations aim to support good management on the higher risk stockholding areas.

What do the Stockholding Regulations mean for farmers?

When stockholding is a permitted activity

Stockholding areas are permitted when:

- 90 percent or more of the cattle being held are four months of age or younger **or** weigh no more than 120kg

OR (when cattle are older and/ or heavier)

- the base area is sealed to a minimum permeability standard of 10^{-9} metres per second; **and**
- effluent is collected and managed in line with regional or district plan rules, or a resource consent; **and**
- area is at least 50 metres from any water body including drains, water bores, or the coastal marine area.

Any stockholding areas not meeting these limits will require a certified freshwater farm plan (when available) or a resource consent.

Develop a freshwater farm plan

This option is currently unavailable as Government is still developing freshwater farm plan regulations.

Obtain a resource consent

If you require a resource consent, visit the B+LNZ factsheet at www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/intensive-winter-grazing-resource-consent.pdf. While this factsheet focuses on consents for winter grazing, the same principles apply for all resource consents.

Your local council staff should also be able to provide you with guidance.

This flowchart may help you decide whether you need a resource consent

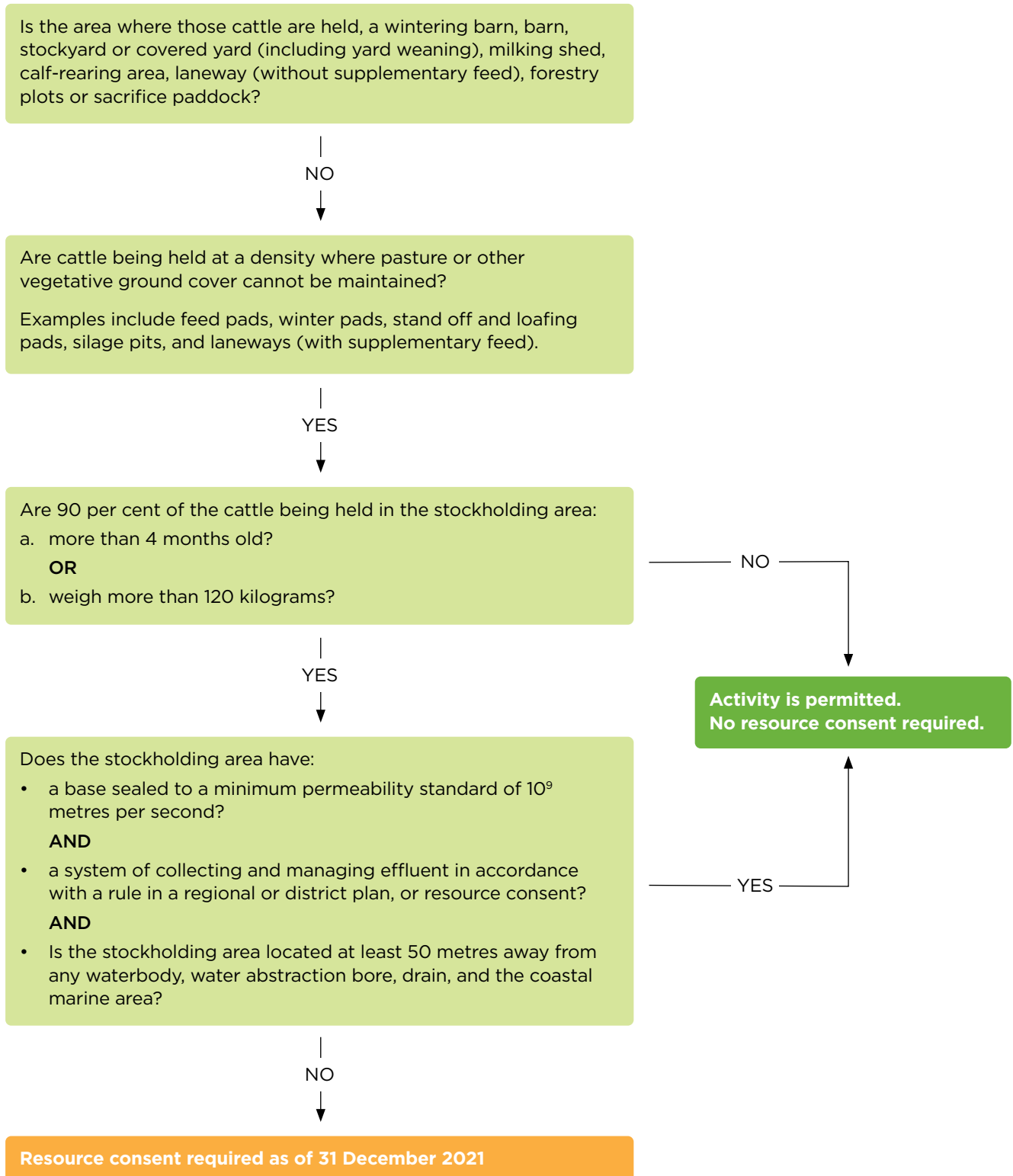


Diagram adapted from *Stockholding definition guidance*. Ministry for the Environment. 2022. Visit this document for more information about each of these examples.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020), available at www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0174/latest/LMS364209.html
- Visit the Ministry for the Environment's Stockholding definition guidance document, available at <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/stockholding-definition-guidance/>
- Attend a B+LNZ farm planning workshop to assess and manage risks. Visit www.beeflambnz.com/farmplan
- Talk to your regional council.

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