

CONDITIONS FOR SUPPLY AND USE OF POULTRY MANURE

The conditions listed below help to protect the environment, reduce impacts on individuals and communities and to support the continued use of poultry litter as a valuable fertiliser and soil amendment. These conditions apply to litter removed from poultry operations.

The end-user of this spent poultry litter accepts that:

- A. Poultry litter is classed as Restricted Animal Material (RAM). **It is illegal to feed litter to ruminants or to allow ruminants to have access to spent litter.**
- B. Following spreading, ruminants must not have access to the application sites for at least 21 days.
- C. Litter handling, storage and use should comply with the 'Best Practice Guidelines for using poultry litter on pastures' available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- D. Nutrients in each batch of spent poultry litter can be highly variable and the supplier makes no claims as to the nutrient content, quality and suitability of purpose of the litter supplied.
- E. Litter should be analysed to accurately determine nutrient content.
- F. Poultry litter contains potentially harmful pathogens. The end-user has a duty of care to prevent illness or harm to themselves and to anyone else associated with the use of the litter.
- G. Poultry litter can be harmful to humans, animals and the environment. The end-user accepts responsibility for these risks and will take all necessary precautions to prevent harm to humans, animals and the environment.
- H. Movement of spent litter or nutrients, pathogens or any other material in litter into surface or groundwater is an offence under the Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997.

The following specific conditions apply to the storage and use of spent poultry litter :

1. Poultry manure may only be used as a soil amendment.
2. Litter must not be stored or spread within 500m of poultry production areas (sheds)
3. Litter storage and/or processing areas:
 - a. Should be placed as far away as practicable from residences not associated with the property
 - b. Must not be accessible to ruminant livestock
 - c. Should have an impermeable base to prevent nutrient leaching and groundwater contamination
 - d. Should have a diversion bank above the site to prevent storm water runoff from entering the storage site
 - e. Should be bunded to contain and divert effluent from the stored litter
 - f. Should capture any effluent from the storage site in a dam, pond or equivalent structure.
4. Do not spread raw litter directly onto emerging crops or onto vegetables or horticultural produce. For vegetables:
 - a. Avoid side-dressing crops with raw litter within 90 days of harvest.
 - b. Certified composted litter may be side dressed until 14 days before harvest.
5. Paddocks receiving litter should be soil tested every 3 to 4 years to monitor nutrient and heavy metal levels.
6. Application rates should not exceed the capacity of soils to store the phosphorus in litter and the plants to use the nitrogen in litter and should be based on soil test results together with documented agronomic advice.
7. Spreaders or equivalent equipment should be properly calibrated to ensure litter is correctly and uniformly applied.
8. Litter material and nutrients and pathogens from litter must not enter surface or groundwater. Avoid spreading litter in drainage lines and depressions which funnel surface water into waterways. Litter should not be spread close to waterways, dams and drainage areas. **A minimum 10 m buffer distance is recommended from waterways, dams and drainage areas.** Where the potential of water runoff is greater (for example sloping paddocks) a wider buffer distance may be required (30 – 40 metres). Litter must not be spread within 100 metres of any waterways or water storages that provide public drinking water supplies.

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9. Vehicles which transport and spread spent litter must be covered to reduce odour, dust and pollution.
10. Avoid spreading litter too close to neighbouring residences. Where possible, inform neighbours when spreading and avoid spreading on weekends if neighbours may be impacted.
11. Monitor weather conditions and forecasts. Avoid spreading in windy conditions that may result in dust or odour drift.
12. Do not spread when rainwater runoff is forecast or expected, for example just prior to or during heavy rainfall, particularly where the slope is steep.
13. Keep accurate records of dates and locations when spreading litter.

Safe Use:

1. Poultry litter can contain hard materials such as concrete, rock or steel that may be damaging to spreading and handling equipment. To prevent damage to machinery the end user must remove potentially hazardous material from the litter before spreading.
2. A safe workspace must be enforced around the spreader such that hard material being thrown from the spreader cannot cause injury or property damage.
3. Do not inhale dust from poultry litter. If operating in dusty conditions use of dust masks and adequate cab air filtration systems is recommended.
4. Ammonia emissions and other gasses from manure can accumulate in closed or unventilated conditions. To prevent respiratory or asphyxiation exclude entry.