

Effluent management

It doesn't *stop*
at the farm gate

"Standing stock – it's for the stock's own benefit."

Lance McLaggan, Waikato dairy farmer

Lance McLaggan milks 700-plus cows at Taupiri. He's been farming for over 30 years and knows the value and benefits of taking a proactive and careful approach to the environment and care of his animals.

With such a large number of cows, Lance will prepare his cows at least seven times throughout the year for transport off his property.

Cows produce between 60-80kg of effluent on a normal day – when under pressure during transport they can produce even more. This is exacerbated if the cow has just come off green feed and can lead to more effluent spills on the road.

Less effluent on the road is better for the environment and generally reduces road safety and health risks associated with spilt effluent.

So before transporting stock, Lance stands them in a paddock with minimal green feed and gives his cows hay and water if standing for longer than four hours.

"It's for the stock's own benefit," he says. "They don't have a big belly trying to walk up the race onto the truck, making it easier to load them."

Also, with less green feed in their belly, they are easier to work with and they move better, says Lance.

Freephone 0800 800 401
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

**Make sure your
stock are prepared
for transport on
Gypsy Day.**

For advice, contact Waikato
Regional Council's Isy Kennedy at
isy.kennedy@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

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"Stock travel better with less in their gut."

Andrew Lennox, Waikato dairy farmer

Andrew Lennox knows effluent management doesn't stop at the farm gate.

The Tirau and Waotu dairy farmer has a strong view about ensuring there is a positive image of dairy farmers, and doesn't like to see effluent on the roads.

Andrew has been farming for over 35 years and operates two dairy farms with a collective total of 1000 milking cows plus replacements.

Andrew used to stand his cows off green feed on the same day as the cows were transported, but nowadays he keeps his stock in a holding paddock overnight prior to transporting the next day. For a longer trip he will feed the cows hay with water.

Stock is transported on and off his property up to 20 times a year and Andrew says that apart from "wanting a good image for my industry, keeping effluent off the road is a road safety issue". He also notes that his stock travel better with less in their gut.

Andrew also remembers the death of a motorcyclist in 1992 due to slippery stock effluent on the road.

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"I stand my stock prior to transporting."

Pauline Kean, Waikato dairy farmer

Pauline Kean owns an 80 hectare dairy farm near the foot of the Kaimai Ranges.

She knows the value and benefits of taking a proactive and careful approach to the environment and animal welfare.

Cows produce 60-80kg of effluent on a normal day, but Pauline is aware the stress animals face when being herded into the race for transport on Gypsy Day can lead to even more effluent than normal.

So, before transporting them, which happens about four times a year, Pauline stands her stock off green feed in an adjacent special holding paddock before transferring them to her padded cow yards.

By standing off the stock, she says, "animals are more comfortable and travel better with an empty stomach" while "cleaner roads is a better image for the dairy farmers".

Less effluent on the road is also better for the environment generally and lessens road safety and health risks associated with spilt effluent.

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