



Nitrogen loss reductions in Selwyn Waihora

Farms in the Selwyn Waihora catchment with consent conditions to reduce their nitrogen losses from 1 January 2022 will have their reductions audited from mid-2023 (when the 2022-23 season ends and the nutrient budget is available).

About 200 farms in the area with nitrogen losses greater than 15kg of nitrogen per hectare per year have farming land use consent conditions that require specific percentage reductions in nitrogen loss from 1 January 2022. Consent holders will have these checked as part of their scheduled Farm Environment Plan (FEP) audits.

How much will I need to reduce?

Farms in Selwyn Waihora leaching more than 15kg nitrogen per hectare per year are subject to percentage reductions in nitrogen losses below their nitrogen baseline. Your specific reduction requirements may be stated or pre-calculated in your consent conditions – if this is the case, the reduction target specified must be used.

The reductions under the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) are:

30% for dairy	22% for dairy support	20% for pigs	5% for irrigated sheep, beef or deer
2% for dryland sheep, beef or deer	7% for arable	5% for fruit, viticulture or vegetables	0% for any other land uses

What you need to do

When you receive your FEP audit notification, contact a certified FEP Auditor to complete your audit by its scheduled date. Learn more about the FEP auditing process and see a list of certified auditors at ecan.govt.nz/fep-audits.

If your audit is due before the 2022-23 season ends but you would like to have your nitrogen loss reductions audited, you can request an audit date extension. Email fep.audit@ecan.govt.nz or call 0800 324 636 to request an extension.

How do I prepare for my audit?

The evidence required for your audit is dependent on how large your reduction requirement is and what changes have been made to the farming system since the baseline period (2009-2013).

Your FEP auditor will be able to advise on the specific information they'll need on the day, but some examples of important evidence are:

- an updated Farm Environment Plan
- Overseer nutrient budgets
- a clear description of the farming system
- mitigation techniques for managing nitrogen loss.

Do I need to provide an Overseer nutrient budget?

Depending on how large your reduction requirement is, and what changes have been made to your farming system in the last several years, you may need to provide an Overseer nutrient budget for your audit.

In some situations, other sources of evidence may be able to demonstrate that the farm system changes and mitigations are overwhelmingly capable of delivering the reduction, and an Overseer nutrient budget may not be required.

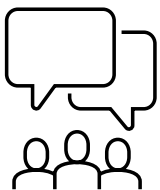
We no longer rely solely on Overseer modelling, due to the ongoing government review.

Talk to your FEP auditor to find out whether you will need to provide an Overseer nutrient budget.

Actions to lower nitrogen losses

There are various actions you can take to achieve lower nitrogen loss and improve farming efficiency, beyond GMP. Mitigation techniques such as planting catch crops, irrigation scheduling, plantain and soil nitrogen testing have been identified as effective and practical options for farmers, offering the best value for money, industry support and availability. Learn more about these options for reducing nitrogen loss at ecan.govt.nz/n-loss.

Talk to a nutrient management advisor or farm consultant to discuss what may work best for your farm system.



Where to get help

Check the website

For more information about the nitrogen loss reduction, visit ecan.govt.nz/selwyn-waihora

Talk to your zone team

Your local land management advisor can help you with advice on how to prepare for audit. For support in your local area, give us a call on 0800 324 636. We can arrange for your local land management advisor to contact you by email, phone, or face to face.