



# BECOME A WASTE WISE FARMER

The New England and North West is one of Australia's premier agricultural regions, producing agricultural commodities including cotton, wheat, barley and pecan nuts. There has also been significant growth and success with the emerging olive, viticulture and aquaculture industries.

The region produces world-class fine wool and is a centre for livestock production and specialist breeding programs. There is a strong presence of associated enterprises including major lamb and beef processing facilities, as well as high quality leather processors.

In light of this, farm waste issues are extremely important to the region with the range of waste materials generated as diverse as the farming region itself.

The aim of this brochure is to help farms become wise about their waste, and look at ways they can reduce, reuse and recycle farm waste materials, or if this is not possible the best ways to dispose of these.

Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) is a collaboration of Councils in the New England & North West region of NSW and is focused on the delivery of cost effective and sustainable waste management options for the region's community.

Formed in 1998, NIRW has been developing & implementing waste management programs on a regional level. The current membership consists of the following 13 member Councils:

- \* Armidale Dumaresq
- \* Glen Innes Severn
- \* Gunnedah Shire
- \* Guyra Shire
- \* Inverell Shire
- \* Liverpool Plains Shire
- \* Moree Plains Shire
- \* Narrabri Shire
- \* Tamworth Regional
- \* Tenterfield Shire
- \* Uralla Shire
- \* Walcha

For more information about NIRW's programs, contact the Program Coordinator on (02) 6767 5449 or visit our website at [www.nirw.org.au](http://www.nirw.org.au).



## Reduce, reuse & recycle on your property

Information on waste disposal guidelines is available from the Department of Environment & Climate Change by visiting [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

Northern Inland Regional Waste  
PO Box 555 Tamworth NSW 2340  
Ph: (02) 6767 5449 or [www.nirw.org.au](http://www.nirw.org.au)

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# How to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle on Your Farm

## Why is Waste Disposal an Issue?



For generations some farmers have filled depressions, washaways and gullies with a range of farm wastes. Given the importance of a healthy environment for the production of good quality produce, sound waste disposal practices are essential.

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On farm solid waste disposal can result in the pollution of both groundwater and surface waters, and can aggravate erosion problems.

In addition, clean agriculture is of increasing importance in the marketing of our produce overseas.

## On Farm Disposal

If it is not practical to take your domestic and non-chemical waste to a Council waste facility then you should place it in a secure pit where it will not cause harm to the environment or human health. A secure pit is one that has good pollution control and is properly managed.

Please note your pit must only contain waste generated on your property. Under no circumstances should you allow anybody else (including neighbours) to dispose of their waste in your pit.

**LOCATION** - Select a relatively level site which has no drainage or seepage into watercourses and is not subject to flooding. Avoid sites that have soils which are sandy, shallow or leaky and avoid rock crops as they may be ground water recharge areas.

The disposal of any waste must not result in any off-site impacts, including groundwater. This means that areas subject to flooding; gullies or depressions; lagoons; wetlands; old watercourses; and areas within 100 metres of any surface water are not suitable.

## Benefits of Being a Waste Wise Farmer

By making your farm Waste Wise, you can save money, conserve valuable resources and improve the environmental image of your farming operation.

- > By reducing, you are using less and avoiding waste
- > By reusing materials, you can avoid buying new materials and avoid waste
- > By recycling you avoid waste and help conserve resources, as the materials are reprocessed into new products

## What a Waste Wise Farm Could Look Like

A designated reuse area for reusable items such as wire, tin, drums, metal etc kept clean and tidy and easily accessible to the farmer.

A Waste Oil storage system for used sump oil that can be collected and recycled.

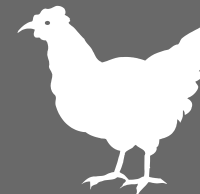


Separated waste disposal/recycling piles for transfer to landfill and recycling drop off centres, including scrap metal.



A compound for clean, triple rinsed empty chemical containers to be recycled through drumMUSTER.

Household compost and/or chooks to recycle food and garden waste.



## Waste Solutions

### General Waste

Speak to your neighbours and see if it's possible to organise a roster for carrying waste to your nearest Council landfill or transfer station.

### Empty Chemical Containers

There are drumMUSTER collection compounds at the majority of the 13 Councils in the New England & North West region accepting clean empty chemical containers. Contact your local council for further information.

### Unwanted Chemicals

NIRW holds an annual rural & household chemical clean out campaign in July & August. The first 20kg are free. ChemClear also provide a disposal service for unwanted agricultural and veterinary chemicals, visit [www.chemclear.com.au](http://www.chemclear.com.au) for further information.

### Scrap Metal

All council landfills/transfer stations in the New England & North West accept uncontaminated scrap metal for recycling. NIRW are encouraging farmers to remove metal waste from gullies and other sites, and look at ways to rehabilitate the landscape.

### Used Motor Oil

All council landfills in the New England & North West have used motor oil disposal facilities. Contact your local council for more information.

### Recyclables

Most council landfills and transfer stations have drop off areas for paper/cardboard, glass bottles/jars, plastics, aluminium/steel cans, milk/juice bottles. Also look for opportunities to reuse some of these materials around your property.

### Household Waste

Kitchen scraps can be composted or fed to chooks. Ideally all other household waste should be disposed of at your local landfill/transfer station (or refer to notes under On Farm Disposal).

### Tyres

Tyres can be reused on farm as tree guards, silage stacks or bunker weights or taken to your local landfill (disposal costs may apply).