

TOOLBOX: ACTION PLANS

The Action Plans in this manual will form the basis of your Farm Environment Plan once you've completed them. Make Action Plans to manage the risks you identify on your farm.



01 Focus on what's relevant to you or your district

Not all of the Action Plan modules here will apply on your place. For example if you don't irrigate, apply effluent or use winter crops, or there are no wetlands/waterways, you won't need to complete plans for those activities.

Do the ones that are relevant to you, but make a note of what's not relevant and keep the list with your Farm Environment Plan. This shows an auditor that you've thought about all risks and checked for them. (Use the table below.)

Also, risks that might not be an issue on your place (eg, nitrogen loss) might still be issues for your district or catchment area. In that case you could still include an assessment and actions to measure your N loss to show you are meeting your catchment's goals.

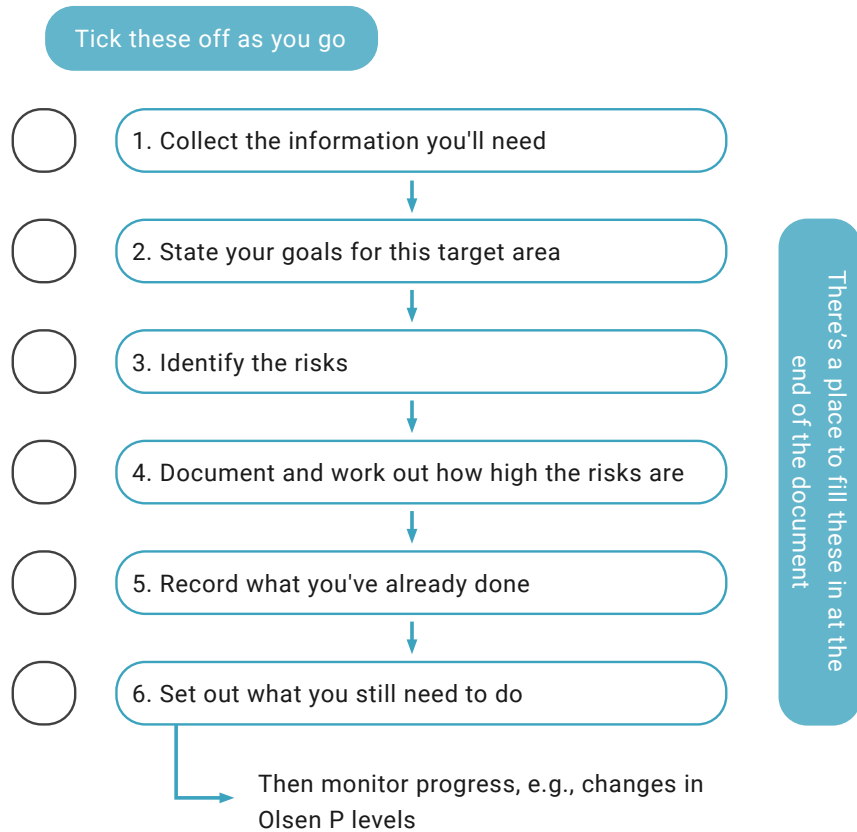
Action Plan	To be completed	In progress	Completed	Date	Not applicable for my property
1. Waterways					
2. Nitrogen					
3. Phosphorus					
4. Waste management					
5. Soil erosion					
6. Winter forage crops					
7. Point sources – tracks and crossings					
8. Point sources – sheds and yards					
9. Fence pacing					
10. Camp and play sites					
11. Wallows					
12. Irrigation					
13. Greenhouse gases					
14. Biodiversity					



02 What you'll find in each Action Plan

Some of these will take more work than others but they all follow the same structure.

This is summarised at the start by a flow chart like this one:



Then you'll work through:

1. Collecting the information you'll need, eg, farm maps, advice in a Deer Fact etc
2. Setting out your goals
- 3 & 4. Identifying the risks and working out how high each risk is
5. Documenting actions you've already taken for each risk area.
6. Documenting actions you have planned for each risk area.

Here's how your Action Plan can look:

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	
Stop stock camp from becoming a CSA	Soil damage and loss from play area on slope	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
Use electric fencing to protect soils damaged on slope by deer playing on stock camp area to prevent sediment loss. Lay geotextiles over worst areas.	Visual inspection – reduced soil loss visible down slope.	1 October 2021	Me, farm staff

In each Action Plan module we also provide you with plenty of “Handy hints” and other useful information with photos and examples of what people are already doing on their farms (see below).



HANDY HINTS

Advice
.....

If you’re having trouble getting started on these, an environmental consultant can help you work through the process. Alternatively, your regional council may supply free advice through their land management or catchment advisers.

Good
Management
Practices
.....

The Deer Industry Environmental Management Code of Practice provides lots of examples of Good Management Practices (GMPs) to manage the risks you’ve identified. There’s a comprehensive list of GMPs you could use in this toolbox. We’ve also included GMP ideas in each of the Action Plan modules to get you started. They are things like:

- Managing stocking rates
- Maintaining pasture covers
- Direct drilling to minimise sediment loss
- Monitoring Olsen P levels
- Fertiliser use based on soil tests
- Stock exclusion from waterways
- Plantings around sheds and yards to intercept sediment runoff
- Directing shed wash down into a sump that can be cleared out
- Placing yards and sheds away from waterways
- Tracks cambered and cutouts used to direct runoff away from waterways
- Native or wetland areas already fenced or planted
- Fencing to protect waterways and risk areas marked on maps
- Irrigation scheduling based on soil moisture monitoring
- Soils mapped to help identify risky areas.

Direct drilling instead of cultivation can help minimise sediment loss.



In your Action Plan, note actions already underway, such as riparian fencing and planting.



Southland Environmental Advance Party group learning how to assess soil health and risks, to guide their actions on farm. Photo: Nicola McGrouther





03 Sharing your plan

Once you have created your maps, assessed your risks and completed your Action Plans, make these available to share with family and workers. Discuss your goals and risks and why those actions are important.



04 Implementing, monitoring and reviewing the plan

For a farm plan to be useful, you will review and update at least once a year.

Review the actions. Have they worked? Do you need to change or add new actions to achieve the outcome you want? Have the rules changed? Make a list of any new actions needed.

Set up a basic monitoring programme. (There's space to note how you'll do your monitoring in each Action Plan.)

The simplest monitoring is a visual check and taking photos. Photos tracking change over time are incredibly useful. They can be geotagged to record the location, date and time they were taken. By setting up monitoring sites for water quality, biodiversity, stream health or soil health, for example, you can show you're tracking changes accurately.

For a simple monitoring template to get you started:

beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/IT3-our-plan-template-monitoring-plan.pdf