Feeding catering waste to farmed animals is **ILLEGAL**





Catering waste MUST NOT be fed to farmed animals

It has been illegal to feed catering waste to farmed animals in the UK since 2001, and this ban was adopted by the whole European Community in 2003. **If you are convicted of feeding catering waste to farmed animals you can be fined or sentenced to a maximum of two years in prison.**

The law is there to help prevent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and other animal diseases such as swine fever - catering waste can be a major source of these diseases.

You cannot feed *any* kind of catering waste to farmed animals. Catering waste is defined as all waste food, whether raw or cooked, including **used cooking oils (UCO)**, which arise in premises such as:

- Household kitchens
- Restaurants
- Fish and Chips/Pizza/Kebab shops
- Takeaway shops
- Canteens
- Cafes; or
- Vegetarian kitchens/restaurants

It also includes food waste from other premises (food factories, distribution warehouses etc.) that contains or has been in contact with animal by-products (such as raw eggs, meat, fish products) and this must not be fed to farmed animals.

'Farmed animals' includes any pet animals that belong to a farmed species, such as pet pigs, goats and poultry.



Catering waste MUST be disposed of safely

There are specific places that catering waste must go to for disposal, such as:

- Licensed landfill sites (in accordance with the Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC)
- Approved composting plants (under the Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) no. 1774/2002)
- Approved biogas plants (under the Animal By-Products Regulation)
- Incineration plants (approved under the Waste Incineration Directive 2000/76/EC)
- Approved rendering plants (under the Animal By-Products Regulation)

Waste and your duty of care

If your business produces catering waste, it is your responsibility to ensure that this type of waste from your establishment is disposed of correctly. It must not contaminate the environment or be fed to farmed animals.

What is 'duty of care'?

The duty of care is a requirement that says that you must take all reasonable steps to keep waste safe. If you give your waste to someone else, you must be sure they are authorised to take it and can transport, recycle or dispose of it safely and in line with the regulations. You can check that individuals are registered waste carriers by visiting:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk then clicking on Public Registers & Freedom of Information/ Public Registers / Search Now

The duty of care also requires that you fill out some paper work called a transfer note that must include details of the waste, who you are and who you are giving it to. More details on the duty of care can be found by visiting:

www.defra.gov.uk then clicking on Environmental Protection / Recycling and Waste / Licensing and Enforcement / Duty of Care

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Help us prevent damaging disease outbreaks

We understand that feeding catering waste to farmed animals may seem a cheap and effective way to dispose of it. It is vital, however, that we take every possible step to prevent outbreaks of disease amongst farmed animals – for the public, for the farmed animals owners and for the catering industry. By disposing of catering waste legally and safely, you help us to protect farmed animals.

For further information about the disposal of catering waste and how it affects you, please contact the following sources:

- http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/by-prods/cater/swill.htm
- The Defra helpline tel 08459 33 55 77 or email us at helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Your Local Authority or LACORS www.lacors.gov.uk
- Your Local Animal Health Office of the State Veterinary Service
- Product Authentication International (PAI) for the collection and use of Used Cooking Oils Tel 01423 878878 or www.thepaigroup.com

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