

Re: Composting manure

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- *From:* "Farm1" <please@askifyouwannaknow>
 - *Date:* Mon, 15 Jan 2007 13:43:30 +1100
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"Otterbot" <spl@xxxxx> wrote in message

"Mary Fisher" <mary.fisher@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

A couple of years ago we had a terrible outbreak of foot and mouth disease, resulting in very many animals being killed and burnt and

a lot

of farmers being put out of business or even committing suicide.

It was

awful.

pardon my ignorance – but we don't have f&m here (there you are!!),

but i

thought it was soil-borne(?)

It's a virus and all cloven hoofed animals can get it.

In an attempt to prevent a future outbreak of this dreadful

disease it was

decided to ban any feeding of meat or kitchen waste to any animal

or bird

which was normally part of the human food chain, even if that

animal or

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bird was a pet. So it's illegal to feed our pet chickens (which we might eat and we certainly eat their eggs) with anything which originates in our kitchen or other catering establishment. That includes anything, even carrot peelings.

however, one thing about legislation is that if it's too extreme or illogical, people just flaunt it entirely. i can only assume that the u.k.

is full of people giving kitchen scraps (possibly including cooked meat or bones) to their chooks. and i'm wondering why they shouldn't.

The F&M outbreak in the UK was so appalling that it might interest you to do some reading on it. Imagine the consequences if it even got into Oz? All cattle, sheep, goats, camels, alpacas, pigs etc could be at risk.

As a cattle producer, the UK outbreak was enough to nearly make me weep. So many good stock and gene lines just down the drain.

And, because the Brit govt paid compensation there were reports that some unscrupulous farmers who actually cashed in on that and deliberately infected their herds – imagine what that did to their uninfected neighbours and to the social fabric of the neighbourhood?

Blanket laws, althoughh unreasonable in application to reasonable people are the only way to go when there are unreasonable people potentially involved.

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