

# Wool Harvesting micro-credentials development

May 2024



**MUKA TANGATA**  
People, Food and Fibre  
Workforce Development Council

Muka Tangata, the People Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council, has recently collaborated with the Wool Harvesting industry to develop four micro-credentials. The new micro-credentials are Introduction to Shearing, Shearing Essentials (Junior), Wool Handling Fundamentals and Wool Pressing Skills. These four micro-credentials form a strong base for training and will indicate where further micro-credential development for more advanced skills may be needed.

The micro-credentials have been developed to sit at level 3 on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF). They focus on the practical skills required in wool handling industry roles and have been developed to meet the training needs of a seasonal and itinerant workforce. The micro-credentials allow for the current non-formal training offered around the country to be recognised formally, and for the industry to set consistent expectations for training.

## Background

Although scoping for the project began over a year ago, the formal development process began in August 2023. Muka Tangata held a wānanga in September to provide a forum for a range of industry voices to identify the skills, knowledge and training needs for the micro-credentials.

After the wānanga, Expressions of Interest were invited for advisory groups for the project. The first meeting of these groups was held in early November. The advisory groups included representatives from Wool Impact, Kaiaka Wool Industry Training, New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association, New Zealand Wool Classers' Association, Wool Harvesting Industry Partnership group, wool harvesting industry professionals and vocational education and training providers.

Muka Tangata worked with the advisory groups to develop skill standards to support the provision of these micro-credentials. Many of the unit standards that had formerly been used to support training in wool harvesting have expired, and this project provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the skills required and how those skills should be assessed.

### Introduction to Shearing

#### Level 3, 6 credits

This micro-credential is intended for a broad range of learners seeking basic skills in shearing. It can be useful as an entry point into the industry for those who are not yet in employment. It is also useful for people already working in the industry who need these skills.

The learning outcomes for this micro-credential are:

- Grind shearing combs and cutters for machine shearing
- Set up a machine shearing handpiece and maintain the down-tube of the shearing plant
- Catch and present sheep safely for dagging and crutching, and for shearing
- Dag and crutch sheep
- Shear sheep using an appropriate sequence and blow pattern
- Identify wool contaminants, and damaged and injured sheep



## Shearing Essentials (Junior)

### Level 3, 30 credits

This micro-credential recognises the skills and techniques required to shear sheep professionally. Shearers awarded this micro-credential will be able to shear crossbred sheep at a commercially competent rate, as well as select and maintain their own gear.

The learning outcomes for this micro-credential are:

- Identify and report hazards in a woolshed.
- Contribute to safe set up of the woolshed for use.
- Select and assemble equipment appropriate to the job requirements.
- Catch sheep for shearing efficiently and safely.
- Shear crossbred sheep.
- Identify wool contaminants, and damaged and injured sheep.

## Wool Handling Fundamentals

### Level 3, 20 credits

This micro-credential recognises the skills and knowledge required to work as a wool handler. In addition to skills directly related to handling wool, this micro-credential recognises the importance of effective teamwork for wool handlers.

The learning outcomes for this micro-credential are:

- Identify and report hazards in a woolshed
- Work within a team to support efficient workflow in the woolshed
- Handle wool on the board, at the table and blending stack as directed, in accordance with relevant market requirements
- Transfer fleece to the table to be processed.

## Wool Pressing Skills

### Level 3, 25 credits

This micro-credential recognises the skills and knowledge required to work as a wool presser. The micro-credential covers a range of key skill sets expected of wool pressers.

The learning outcomes for this micro-credential are:

- Identify and report hazards in a woolshed
- Contribute to the safe set up of the woolshed for use
- Pen up sheep efficiently and safely and maintain tally information
- Prepare a wool press for use
- Press wool safely, complete documentation and store bales.

For further information on this development project, please contact [qualifications@mukatangata.nz](mailto:qualifications@mukatangata.nz) before **10 June 2024**.

