

1XXXXX Implement pig herd health programs

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	15
Whāinga Purpose	<p>People with this skill standard will be able to establish and carry out effective health management practices for pigs. Learners who are awarded this standard will apply preventive treatments, recognise and treat common diseases, monitor environmental factors and maintain health records, all in accordance with veterinary advice and welfare requirements.</p> <p>This skill standard has been developed to align with the New Zealand Certificate in Pork Production (Management) with an optional strand in Pig Farm Production Planning (Level 4) [Ref: 4222]</p>

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Describe common pig health issues and the principles of disease prevention.	a. Describe symptoms and causes of five common pig diseases in New Zealand and outline preventive measures and treatment options for each.
	b. Explain the role of vaccination and parasite control in disease prevention.
2. Implement routine herd health practices as per a herd health plan.	a. Administer vaccines and medications safely to pigs according to schedule.
	b. Implement biosecurity-linked health measures to reduce disease spread.
	c. Manage medications and veterinary supplies
3. Recognise signs of illness or injury in pigs and take appropriate remedial action	a. Observe and interpret clinical signs in pigs to identify health problems promptly.
	b. Provide first-response treatment, including timely euthanasia where necessary for identified issues and record treatment details.
4. Monitor environmental factors and adjust conditions to support pig health.	a. Check and record housing temperature and ventilation and adjust to maintain optimal ranges.
	b. Monitor pig behaviour and condition as indicators of environmental stress and make appropriate adjustments to alleviate problems.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria***Assessment specifications:***

All evidence presented in this skill standard must be in accordance veterinary guidelines and farm procedures.

Ākonga/learners' evidence must be collected using naturally occurring evidence.

All activities and evidence must meet the requirements of farm procedures, accepted industry practice, legislation and any subsequent amendments.

All activities relevant to this standard should reflect ngā kaupapa (the principles) o te Tiriti o Waitangi.

All activities should, as relevant to candidates and/or this standard, reflect the peoples of other cultures, and their world views.

Range

Learners should have access to animal health equipment (needles, medicines, records), facility manuals, and veterinary treatment protocols. Products and protective gear must meet regulatory standards.

Evidence may include observation of treatment administration, review of health records or treatment logs, oral questioning on disease identification, and demonstrated response to a staged health issue.

Definitions

Veterinary guidelines advice received directly from veterinarians, or literature recommended by veterinarians.

Programme the husbandry and management procedures required for feeding, maintaining health, housing and welfare of pigs for example, standard operating procedures.

Farm procedures refer to the policies and procedures set out in a verbal or written form by the employer or organisation.

Accepted industry practice refers to approved codes of practice and standardised procedures accepted by the wider industries as examples of best practice.

Herd a group of pigs managed together on a farm, including breeding stock and growing pigs.

Herd size the total number of pigs in the herd, often measured by the number of breeding sows or overall pig count.

Recommended skills and knowledge

It is recommended that people complete New Zealand Certificate in Pork Production (Stockperson) with an optional strand in Farrowing Care (Level 3) [Ref: 2525]

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Identify Health Issues & Prevention

- Common health issues: gastric ulcers, pneumonia, lameness, erysipelas, scours, sarcoptic mange, PMWS.

- Prevention strategies: vaccination, regular deworming, hygiene/disinfection routines, strict biosecurity (visitor limits, quarantine).

Implement Herd Health Practices

- Establish structured programs: vaccination schedules, parasite-control protocols.
- Routine sanitation: facility and equipment cleaning and disinfection.
- Daily health monitoring and detailed record-keeping of checks, treatments and incidents.
- Manage medications and veterinary supplies on-hand (e.g., needles, medication storage, checking shelf life, maintaining inventory, disposal of expired products)

Recognize & Respond to Illness

- Detect signs: coughing, sneezing, scours, skin lesions, lameness, lethargy, or appetite loss.
- Remedial actions: isolate affected animals, administer treatments per veterinary guidance, euthanasia, engage veterinary support for diagnostics and severe cases.

Manage Environment & Welfare

- Environmental controls: maintain optimal temperature, provide cooling options, adequate ventilation, appropriate stocking density, bedding and cleanliness.
- Compliance: adhere to Code of Welfare and ACVM Act requirements for chemical and medication use.

Rauemi | Resources

Legislation relevant to this skill standard includes but is not limited to:

- NZ Pork Guidelines are available on request from NZ Pork. www.nzpork.co.nz.
 - NZPork Guidelines for developing Biosecurity farm plans
 - NZPork Transport Biosecurity Guidelines
- Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 [Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 No 87 \(as at 30 November 2022\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- MPI Code of Welfare: Pigs 2018 [Code of Welfare – Pigs](#)
- Biosecurity Act 1993 [Biosecurity Act 1993 No 95 \(as at 05 April 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 No 70 \(as at 05 April 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005
- Animal Status Declaration forms for pigs

and any subsequent amendments or replacements.

Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Muka Tangata – People Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Pork Production > Pig Husbandry
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0052

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	<type here>	[dd mm yyyy]	[dd mm yyyy]
Arotakenga Review	<type here>	[dd mm yyyy]	[dd mm yyyy]
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard will replace Unit standard		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact Muka Tangata – People Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council at qualifications@mukatangata.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.