

1XXXXX Implement pig reproductive programs

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	25
Whāinga Purpose	<p>People with this skill standard will be able to manage breeding and farrowing processes to maintain herd productivity. Learners who are awarded this standard will detect oestrus, manage mating or insemination, gestating sows, prepare sows for farrowing, assist during birthing if needed, and oversee the care of lactating sows and litters until weaning. This involves following schedules, recording data, and optimising reproduction outcomes.</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. Conduct oestrus detection and oestrus management to achieve breeding targets for sows and gilts.	a. Observe sows/gilts for behavioural and physical oestrus signs and accurately record oestrus occurrences.
	b. Implement methods to stimulate and/or synchronize oestrus if needed and plan mating dates to meet farrowing targets.
	c. Manage introduction of gilts and puberty induction.
2. Implement mating or insemination programmes according to farm procedures and record matings.	a. Perform natural mating or artificial insemination following hygiene and timing guidelines.
	b. Maintain mating records and monitor conception indicators.
3. Manage gestating sows to support healthy pregnancies and optimise farrowing outcomes.	a. Monitor the condition and behaviour of gestating sows regularly and identify signs of health issues or stress.
	b. Provide appropriate nutrition and environmental conditions to support pregnancy.
	c. Apply routine health care and vaccination programmes for gestating sows in accordance with farm procedures and veterinary guidelines.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
	d. Adjust management practices to in accordance with gestation progress and prepare sows for farrowing.
	e. Identify and manage returns.
	f. Carry out pregnancy testing at appropriate times.
4. Manage pre-farrowing and farrowing processes following welfare requirements.	a. Prepare clean, well-bedded (where appropriate) farrowing facilities in advance.
	b. During farrowing, monitor sows and assist if difficulties arise, follow farm procedures to minimise stress and support piglet survival.
	c. Ensure colostrum intake by piglets, apply any required neonatal treatments and piglet processing tasks.
	d. Carry out fostering procedures.
5. Oversee post-farrowing care to ensure piglets are healthy and receive adequate nutrition for weaning at target age/weight.	a. Implement creep feeding of piglets.
	b. Monitor piglet growth and health, intervene in a timely manner to address any issues
	b. Wean piglets at the target age/weight: move weaners to weaner housing and record weaning data for herd records.
6. Manage sows to support lactation and subsequent reproductive performance.	a. Provide appropriate nutrition and environmental conditions to support lactation and optimise subsequent reproductive performance.
	b. Monitor lactating sow performance and intervene in a timely manner to address any issues.

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Commented [AT2]: Transfer up to 3.

Commented [AT3]: Swap 5. with 6.

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

Assessment should occur in a breeding/farrowing unit with breeding-age sows, gilts and piglets present.

Learners need access to reproductive equipment (semen storage, insemination supplies), farrowing facilities, and supervision by experienced staff. Recording templates should be provided.

Demonstration of oestrus detection and insemination, review of breeding records, observation of farrowing management, and questioning on reproductive schedules and welfare requirements.

Definitions

The use of terminology *mating* and *insemination* are interchangeable.

Oestrus is the phase in the reproductive cycle of female mammals during which they are sexually receptive and capable of conceiving. This period is often referred to as being "in heat."

Mating includes both natural mating and artificial insemination.

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

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

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

Puberty induction the process of helping young animals, like gilts, start puberty so they are ready for breeding.

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

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

Detect Oestrus

- Identify behavioural and physical signs: swollen/red vulva, restlessness, vocalisation, mounting, standing reflex under back pressure.
- Use boar exposure (direct or through fence) to stimulate and confirm oestrus.

Manage Breeding Programs

- Natural mating: introduce sow to boar during standing heat; record mating dates and behaviours.
- Artificial insemination: collect, handle and store semen correctly; inseminate at peak fertility (36-44 h after oestrus onset). Post Cervical Artificial Insemination AI versus conventional insemination.
- Maintain mating records for performance tracking and scheduling.

Gestating sows

- Monitoring and Observation: Daily checks for appetite, mobility, aggression, or signs of abortion or premature labour or returns. Monitor body condition score (BCS) to avoid over- or under-conditioning.
- Nutrition Management: Feed gestating to meet nutritional requirements at different stages (early, mid, late pregnancy); adjust rations to avoid constipation or farrowing difficulties.
- Housing and Environment: Maintain appropriate temperature, ventilation, and hygiene; minimise stress by avoiding excessive mixing or relocation of sows during mid-late gestation.
- Health Care: Implement deworming and vaccination schedules; watch for signs of disease (e.g. Porcine Parvovirus, Leptospirosis); isolate and treat unwell animals as per veterinary advice.
- Record Keeping: Track service date estimated farrowing date, health treatments, and observed anomalies during gestation; use data to inform farrowing preparation.

Farrowing & Neonatal Care

- Prepare farrowing environment: clean and disinfect prior, ensure dry, warm draft free, environment.
- Assist where needed: clear membranes, tie off umbilical cords.
- Provide neonatal care: colostrum within 12 h, supplemental heat or bedding, iron injection, hygiene procedures.

Post-Farrowing

- Boost sow nutrition for lactation.
- Identify mastitis or poor milk production.

Weaning

- Introduce creep feed at 7-10 days; wean at 3-5 weeks based on weight/health.
- Ensure stress-free transition: group by size, monitor health, highly digestible diet.

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 Kōunga | 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.