

1XXXXX**Care for the sow and litter from pre-farrowing to weaning**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	20
Whāinga Purpose	<p>People credited with this skill standard are able to carry out routine tasks to support the care of farrowing and lactating sows and piglets. People will perform routine tasks to prepare sows to farrow, care for farrowing sows and newborn piglets and monitor the health, welfare and performance of sows and piglets to weaning. People will also carry out piglet procedures and maintain accurate records in line with farm procedures.</p> <p>This skill standard has been developed to align with the New Zealand Certificate in Pork Production (Stockperson) with an optional strand in Farrowing Care (Level 3) [Ref: 2525]</p>

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Prepare the farrowing area	a. Describe the key features and set up of the farrowing area that are important for successful farrowing
	b. Prepare farrowing accommodation for a new batch of sows and move sows to the farrowing area
2. Care for sows pre and post farrowing	a. Describe and demonstrate preparation for due date.
	b. Describe the physical and behavioural signs that indicate a sow is close to farrowing
	c. Describe what happens during farrowing including common farrowing problems and what would be done to address them
	d. Monitor sows, identify and explain any problems during farrowing
	e. Assist sows during farrowing
	f. Perform checks on newly farrowed sow and keep accurate records
3. Provide care to newborn piglets	a. Illustrate, through explanation or action, tasks involved in the care of newborn piglets.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
4. Support the health and welfare of sows and piglets during lactation	b. Check and adjust environmental conditions
	c. Carry out litter management
	a. Describe factors that contribute to the number of pigs weaned per litter
	b. Perform early life piglet procedures
	c. Manage the nutritional requirements of the sow and piglets

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

Assessment specifications:

Assessment samples must provide naturally occurring evidence from real, simulated, or scenario-based activities in a farm context.

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

All activities and evidence must meet the requirements of worksite 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 must, as relevant to candidates and/or this standard, reflect the peoples of the Pacific and other cultures, and their world views.

Range

Written or oral responses describing reproductive anatomy and physiology.

Analysis of herd breeding performance data (e.g., parity, conception, farrowing rates).

Selection rationale and assessment for four breeding animals (two gilts/sows, two boars).

Supervisor-signed checklist or video of reproductive task performance (e.g. heat detection, AI prep).

Completed checklists and logs for farrowing and boar semen evaluations.

Definitions

ASD Animal Status Declaration is a legally required document in New Zealand that accompanies livestock when they are being moved between properties, to slaughter, or to saleyards. It is a key part of biosecurity and food safety systems.

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

Worksite 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.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

- Prepare the farrowing area Set-up creep area, heating for piglets, anti-crushing protection, access to rear of sow, slatted floor, bedding, clean dry area, hygienic, comfortable sow temperature, ease of observation
- Prepare check room temperature settings, check heat lamps work, print sow cards, obtain list of sows to farrow, add straw to huts, add fender to every hut, check fences
- Behavioural nesting, pawing, restless, frequent drinking. Physical: Udder swollen and firm, milk in teats, swollen vulva, increased respiration, increased temperature

Care during and after farrowing

- Farrowing contractions, grunting, laying down, 30 - 40 minutes between piglets, piglets start suckling, farrowing takes ~5 hours
- Monitor straining, pushing, panting, bleeding, bloodshot eyes, dry piglets, long birth intervals
- Assistance gloves, lube, paper towels, check both uterine horns, administer antibiotics if required, record
- Common problems prolonged farrowing, blockage/dystocia, inertia (stopped contracting). Internal examination, monitor piglet birth intervals, give treatments under vet advice
- Post-farrowing check sows are eating, drinking, defecating and urinating, placentas are delivered, signs of fever, discharge, mastitis/ infection, check for functional teats and record teat number

Care of newborn piglets

- Supporting survival remove placenta membranes, check all are suckling, place small/cold piglets under heat lamp, ensure bedding is dry, dry sleeping area
- Colostrum suckling assistance, split suckling, colostrum supplementation
- Adjust conditions optimal sow temperature, optimal piglet temperature, creep temperature, bedding
- Cross fostering identifies piglets to be fostered, identify recipient sow, mark piglets to avoid moving more than once, check functional teat numbers

Support health, welfare, performance

- Number weaned, number born alive, number born dead, birth weight, pre-weaning mortality, milk production, health, colostrum management
- Piglet procedures teeth clipping, tail docking, umbilical cord trimming/spraying, ear tagging, iron injection.
- Nutrition: Piglets - Provide creep feed, feed little and often, fresh, reduce wastage, monitor condition, full bellies. Sows - Adjust feeding levels, water flow, match feeding levels to milk production/ litter size, monitor body condition

Rauemi | Resources

Legislation and code of practice 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.