

1XXXXX**Care for Weaner and Grower Pigs**

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Kaupae Level | 3 |
| Whiwhinga Credit | 10 |
| Whāinga Purpose | <p>People credited with this skill standard are able to provide consistent daily care for weaner and grower pigs, monitor growth and health. People will demonstrate factual and procedural knowledge of housing, environmental needs, and husbandry practices appropriate to this production stage, under limited supervision.</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. Describe housing and environmental requirements of growing pigs | a. Describe Temperature, space, and ventilation needs for weaners and growers |
| | b. Explain flooring options with advantages and disadvantages for pig comfort and hygiene. |
| 2. Carry out daily husbandry tasks | a. Demonstrate feeding and watering routines over seven consecutive days, and any deviations or issues are reported. |
| | b. Carry out routine hygiene maintenance. |
| | c. Carry out daily health checks, report any deviations or issue. |
| 3. Monitor performance and perform calculations | a. Weigh and record at least five pigs for two consecutive weeks, and calculate growth rates |

| Hua o te ako Learning outcomes | Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | b. Describe actions if growth performance falls below the expected targets. |
| 4. Care of newly weaned pigs | a. Demonstrate transferring of weaners to accommodation |
| | b. Check adjust and report environmental condition for weaners. |
| | c. Check weaners for behavioural and physical signs of ill health |
| | d. Observe feeding and drinking behaviour, take action if required. |

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 housing, bedding, flooring, and environmental needs.

Seven-day care log including feed, water, bedding, enrichment, and temperature checks.

Growth and welfare log for ten pigs over a two-week period, including ADG calculations and observations.

Video evidence or supervisor verification of transport preparation and loading.

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.

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

Describe housing and environmental requirements of growing pigs

- Temperature Requirements: Initial weaner temperature range (28–32 °C), stepped down to 22 °C; growers maintained at 18–22 °C.
- Space Allowances: Minimum space per pig — weaner: 0.3 m²; grower: 0.7 m².
- Flooring Options: Solid floors with bedding vs slatted floors — pros and cons for hygiene, comfort, and hoof health.
- Ventilation Systems: Natural vs mechanical ventilation; impact on ammonia levels, airflow, and temperature control.
- Environmental Enrichment: Use of materials and toys to encourage natural behaviours such as rooting and exploration.

Carry out daily husbandry tasks

- Feeding Management: Daily feed routines, checking for refusals or feed wastage, maintaining feed hygiene, and ensuring appropriate feed type and quantity.
- Water Access: Ensuring flow rate of ≥1 L/min per drinker, checking for leaks or blockages, and cleaning drinkers.
- Bedding Maintenance: Managing moisture levels, maintaining comfort, regular replacement schedules, and ensuring dry lying areas.
- Temperature and Environment Monitoring: Recording temperatures daily, adjusting heating or ventilation as needed, and recognising signs of thermal stress.
- Daily Hygiene and Health Checks: Cleaning pens, checking pigs for signs of illness or injury, and reporting deviations.

Monitor performance and perform calculations

- Weighing Procedures: Safe and accurate weighing of pigs using scales, with minimal stress and correct recording practices.
- Record Keeping: Logging individual pig weights for at least two consecutive weeks.
- Growth Rate Calculations: Calculating Average Daily Gain (ADG) and interpreting against expected performance benchmarks.
- Welfare Monitoring: Body condition scoring, assessing behaviour, identifying lameness or poor doers.
- Corrective Actions: Identifying causes of underperformance (e.g. illness, poor nutrition, overcrowding) and reporting or responding according to worksite protocols.

Care of newly weaned pigs

- Transferring to Accommodation: Low-stress handling during weaning, group sizes, pen preparation.
- Environmental Setup for Weaners: Adjusting heating and ventilation, checking temperature and airflow, ensuring dry and draft-free space.
- Health Observations: Identifying common weaning-related issues such as scours, respiratory signs, or failure to thrive.
- Feeding and Drinking Behaviour: Monitoring intake in the first 48–72 hours, providing easy access to feed and water, and acting on signs of reduced appetite.

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.