

**1XXXXX****Pig reproduction and care of the breeding herd**

<b>Kaupae   Level</b>	3
<b>Whiwhinga   Credit</b>	10
<b>Whāinga   Purpose</b>	<p>People credited with this skill standard are able to describe reproductive anatomy and the reproduction cycle of pigs. Carry out tasks relating to oestrus detection, mating and artificial insemination. People will apply factual knowledge to ensure the health and productivity of the breeding herd.</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**

<b>Hua o te ako   Learning outcomes</b>	<b>Paearu aromatawai   Assessment criteria</b>
1. Describe pig reproductive anatomy and the reproduction cycle.	a. Identified and describe key anatomical features of sow and boar reproductive systems.
	b. Describe the oestrus cycle, including behavioural and physical signs of oestrus.
	c. Explain the process of fertilisation, implantation and gestation.
	d. Describe factors affecting reproductive output.
	e. Describe rationale for gilt selection.
2. Perform routine reproduction tasks.	a. Prepare equipment for artificial insemination or select and prepare a boar for natural mating.
	b. Perform artificial insemination and/or facilitate natural mating.
	c. Record oestrus, mating/ artificial insemination details
	a. Describe the care of the breeding herd

Hua o te ako   Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai   Assessment criteria
3. Carry out routine breeding herd husbandry tasks	b. Perform routine health care and vaccination of the breeding herd
4. Interpret basic breeding performance measures and herd turnover indicators	a. Describe performance measures including conception rates, farrowing rates, and non-productive days.
	b. Explain strategies to maximise reproductive performance.

### 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 description of reproductive anatomy and cycle.

Written or oral explanation of farrowing area requirements and piglet care.

Supervisor-verified observation of two husbandry procedures.

Spreadsheet or data table with batch performance records and proposed mating calendar.

#### Definitions

*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

Reproductive anatomy and cycle

- Key anatomical features of the sow and boar reproductive systems (e.g. vulva, cervix, uterus, ovaries; penis, testes, epididymis)

- Oestrus cycle: average duration (18–21 days), hormonal regulation
- Behavioural signs of oestrus: pricked ears, standing next to a boar, restless, off feed
- Physical signs: swollen red vulva, mucous discharge
- Ovulation timing: approx.  $\frac{2}{3}$  through oestrus
- Fertilisation and implantation processes
- Gestation period (~114 days), stages of embryonic development
- Factors affecting reproductive output: Health and body condition at mating, Environmental temperature, social stress (e.g. mixing, bullying), Sow age and performance
- Gilt selection criteria: structure, maturity, genetics, and replacement strategy

### Reproduction tasks

- Preparation of equipment and environment: AI tools (catheter, semen dose, gloves, paper towels), Accurate hygiene and semen handling
- Selecting and preparing a boar for natural mating
- Conducting artificial insemination: Correct technique, timing based on oestrus signs
- Assisting natural mating safely
- Record keeping: Details of mating/AI (date, sow ID, semen/boar ID, technician, outcome), Managing service records and breeding calendars

### Breeding herd care

- Routine husbandry tasks for breeding sows and boars: Daily checks for health, behaviour, appetite, Monitoring and managing body condition, Maintaining optimal housing (e.g. temperature, ventilation, BCS targets)
- Vaccination and health programmes: Common vaccines (e.g. leptospirosis, erysipelas, parvovirus), Timing and method of administration
- Piglet care considerations during farrowing (if applicable): Preparing farrowing accommodation, Monitoring farrowing process, Immediate postnatal care (drying, colostrum intake)

### Breeding performance measures

- Understanding and interpreting key metrics: Conception rate, Farrowing rate, Non-productive sow days, Sow and litter performance
- Herd turnover indicators: Culling rate and reasons, Replacement gilt integration
- Strategies to maximise reproductive performance: Monitoring trends through records, adjusting management to improve heat detection, health, and nutrition, reviewing outcomes to guide future mating plans

### 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](http://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 Kounga | Quality assurance information

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

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

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