

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Livestock Husbandry) (Level 3)

Qualification number: 2214

Date of review: 26 June 2017

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: *National Consistency is Confirmed*

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates:

- able to carry out routine tasks on-farm with some quality checks from the supervisor
- able to take some responsibility for the breeding flock/herd over the breeding season
- able to recognise ill-health in stock, and help with treatment and prevention of livestock health problems
- able to assist with growing young stock from birth to first mating or slaughter, in line with industry codes of practice and welfare

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Primary Industry Training Organisation (Primary ITO)	Sufficient

Introduction

Approved in November 2013, this 70-credit level 3 qualification is designed to train farm assistants who work in pastoral agriculture to assist with animal reproduction, health and the rearing of young stock. While five tertiary education organisations currently have programmes that lead to this qualification, at the time of being selected for review only Primary ITO’s industry training programme had graduates. Primary ITO had 18 graduates in 2015 and 37 in 2016. The majority of those who have completed were working as farm assistants (dairy farming), as it is from this sector that the demand for the qualification has come, although a small number were working as farm hands (sheep, beef and deer farming). An observer from Turanga Ararau attended the consistency review and contributed to discussions. The qualification is due for review in December 2017.

Evidence

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the above evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification

The Primary ITO presented a range of evidence including industry engagement, moderation reports, samples of trainee portfolios, graduate feedback, and employer feedback.

Trainee portfolios are key to the assessment of the graduate capabilities during their study. Trainee portfolios provided evidence of students accumulating evidence of meeting the learning outcomes that are aligned to graduate outcomes. Portfolios include trainee reflections and answers, tutor and verifier sign off, naturally occurring on farm evidence, including photos and final reviews and sign off by training managers. Students are encouraged to use naturally occurring evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Moderation reports demonstrated the use of a moderation panel in 2017 to moderate 19 completed portfolios and determine how well the evidence confirmed the assessment decisions. The moderator panel agreed with 88 percent of the assessors' decisions. Where there were gaps, usually in the evidence supplied, the moderation panel made recommendations to team leaders, assessors for where improvements were needed.

The graduate and employer feedback, included survey data that answered questions directly related to graduates' skills and knowledge on the farm. For example, graduates who responded to the survey (n.37) attested to their improved knowledge and skills in animal husbandry and 96 percent rated the training as good or very good and believed the qualification had helped them progress with their career. Most were still working for the same employer (n.37) and 62 percent were enrolled in further study. Only one had left the industry. Employers (n.22) were asked to comment on the specific graduate outcomes, and against these the vast majority rated their employees' skills as either good or very good (highest two ratings) on a 5-point likert scale. Using the same scale 95 percent rated the application of learning to the workplace as either very good or good.

Feedback from industry has noted that for some trainees gaining experience assisting with the rearing of young stock is difficult due to this work not occurring on all farms. This, and the challenges presented by those with English language difficulties are issues feeding into the Primary ITO programme and qualification review.

How well does the evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

The evidence from the in-depth portfolio moderation, from graduate and employer feedback and from graduate destinations supports the attainment of the three key graduate outcomes within the two different contexts. The alignment of the programme learning outcomes, detailed in the learners' portfolios, to the graduate outcomes, combined with a robust moderation process of the assessments provides a solid platform of evidence. Feedback, after completion, from graduates and employers, strengthens the evidence and confidence that graduate outcomes have been met.

Overall this evidence makes this a convincing case for this evidence to demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.