

41023**Trim hooves to treat and minimise risk of lameness in cattle using the Functional Method**

Kaupae Level	5
Whiwhinga Credit	20
Whāinga Purpose	<p>This skill standard is intended for learners working in cattle farming, veterinary contexts, and in specialist hoof care.</p> <p>They will be able to use the Functional Method to trim hooves to treat and minimise risk of lameness in cattle.</p> <p>This skill standard is aligned to the Functional Cattle Hoof Trimming (Micro-credential) (Level 5) (ID: 129559-1).</p>

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Assess behaviour and physical condition of cattle.	a. Conduct lameness scoring.
	b. Conduct behavioural assessment.
	c. Conduct pre-restraint physical assessment.
	d. Determine cause of abnormal gait and appropriate response.
	e. Evaluate hoof for normal and abnormal anatomical features.
2. Restrain cattle for hoof trimming using techniques that minimise stress and the risk of harm to self, others, and cattle.	a. Assess available restraint equipment for safety.
	b. Set up equipment correctly.
	c. Use appropriate technique to restrain the animal.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
3. Trim hooves using the Functional Method.	a. Maintain and clean trimming equipment.
	b. Explain risks to animal health and welfare posed by poor hoof trimming practices.
	c. Carry out preventative trimming.
	d. Carry out curative trimming.
	e. Apply claw blocks.
	f. Identify conditions that should be referred for veterinary care.
4. Use and clean PPE.	a. Use appropriate PPE.
	b. Clean PPE thoroughly.
5. Maintain treatment records.	a. Record details of treatment.

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

Assessment specifications:

All activities must be carried out in accordance with workplace health and safety requirements, workplace procedures, and, wherever relevant, the Code of Welfare appropriate to the context for which the learner is being assessed (beef cattle or dairy cattle).

Providers must give due consideration to embedding ngā kaupapa (principles) o Te Tiriti o Waitangi when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard. These principles are outlined in [Guidelines for Providers: Embedding Tirohanga Māori](#).

Providers must give due consideration to the needs and values of Pacific peoples and other cultural groups when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard, ensuring practices are inclusive and equitable.

Ākonga/learners should be assessed against this standard in a real-life context using naturally occurring evidence.

On-site assessments will be observed assessments by a qualified assessor. Assessment must be either carried out by or endorsed prior to award by a person who:

- holds the Diploma of Bovine Hoof Care (awarded by The Dairy Training Centre, The Netherlands and supported in Aotearoa New Zealand by the Dairy Hoof Care Institute); and/or
- has been nominated by the New Zealand Cattle Hoof Trimmers' Association (NZCHTA) as an assessor.

Definition

The *Functional Method* refers to a method of hoof trimming designed to prevent lameness by establishing optimal and even weight distribution between the claws as much as possible. In cases of claw-related lameness, the objective is to reduce loading on the affected claw to facilitate healing. This outcome is achieved through the application of the standardised five-step trimming procedure. The first three 'preventative' steps prevent lameness through shaping the hoof, and the last two 'curative' steps address pain in a claw.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Behavioural and physical assessment of cattle

- anatomy of the foot.
- measurements and characteristics of hoof on the ground.
- lameness scoring models.
- animal behaviour, stressors and risks.
- effect of age and condition of animal on behaviour and treatment.
- causes of abnormal gait, e.g. arthritis, ligament damage, joint dislocation, mastitis, hoof abnormalities.
- responses to abnormal gait, e.g. hoof trimming, veterinary referral.

Restraining cattle for treatment

- equipment: type, condition, safety requirements.
- safe work expectations and requirements.
- PPE relevant to work environment and equipment.

Hoof trimming

- selecting and maintaining appropriate trimming equipment, e.g. knives, grinders.
- biosecurity risks related to hoof trimming and cleaning procedures to mitigate risks.
- animal health and welfare risks from poor hoof trimming.
- functional trimming and the five-step trimming process.
- lesion recognition for infectious and non-infectious diseases, e.g. foot rot, digital dermatitis (infectious); laminitis, sole ulcer, toe ulcer, white line disease, vertical and horizontal fissures (non-infectious).
- scope of practice.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- cleaning procedures to mitigate biosecurity risks.
- PPE requirements.
- maintenance/cleaning of PPE and equipment.

Maintaining records

- details of treatment: lesion, foot, claw, date and mode of treatment.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#).
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#).
- [Code of Welfare – Dairy Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Sheep and Beef Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- Raven, E. Toussaint. *Cattle Footcare and Claw Trimming*. Farming Press, 1985.

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | 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	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Agriculture > Livestock 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	1	27 November 2025	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	N/A		
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.