

41293**Carry out monitoring and maintenance of a dairy effluent system**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	5
Whāinga Purpose	This standard is intended for people working in a dairy farming operation. They will be able to identify on-farm practices, environmental risks and benefits associated with effluent application, and carry out monitoring and basic maintenance of a dairy effluent system under guidance. This skill standard is aligned to the New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 3) [Ref: 5680].

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Carry out monitoring and maintenance of a dairy effluent system.	a. Identify components of a dairy effluent system and explain their function.
	b. Identify on-farm practices that reduce the environmental risks of dairy effluent.
	c. Describe benefits and risks associated with using dairy effluent as a fertiliser.
	d. Maintain personal hygiene and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
	e. Monitor the effluent storage system and report identified problems.
	f. Monitor the effluent application system and report identified problems.
	g. Carry out and report on maintenance tasks and corrective actions to address identified problems.

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, legislative requirements and regulatory requirements.

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. Assessment evidence may include workplace observation, verifier evidence, photographs, workplace records, and learner explanations linked to a real-life dairy effluent system. Knowledge evidence should be contextualised to a real-life dairy effluent system and should support, rather than replace, evidence of performance.

Where no problems are present at the time of assessment, evidence may include confirmation that the ākonga/learner monitored the system and reported that no action was required. Corrective actions should be assessed using naturally occurring evidence where practicable. Where no problem requiring corrective action is present, evidence may be gathered through a realistic simulated activity that requires the ākonga/learner to carry out and report an appropriate corrective action within their level of responsibility.

Definition

Dairy effluent refers to faeces, urine, washdown water, spilled milk, soil, feed residues, detergents and other chemicals, and stormwater from the farm dairy and feed pads.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Dairy effluent and dairy effluent systems

- effluent management systems, e.g. different types, system components and functions.
- environmental considerations, e.g. grazing withholding, animal health risks relating to metabolic issues, consequences of non-conformance.
- effluent hazards, e.g. disease (leptospirosis, e. coli), corrosive, exclusion fencing, drowning.
- dairy effluent composition, e.g. livestock faeces and urine, water, cleaning chemicals, unwanted components (e.g. hair, livestock tags, rubbish, biowaste).
- nutrients in effluent: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium.
- benefits of using effluent as fertiliser.
- environmental risks of effluent application, e.g. nitrate leaching, groundwater contamination, faecal coliforms, sedimentation.
- managing health and safety around dairy effluent, e.g. PPE, hygiene.
- regional considerations, e.g. regional bylaws and regulations.

Dairy effluent system management

- supplier assurance requirements, e.g. effluent management records, farm dairy inspections, environmental compliance, reporting non-conformance.
- problems with storage and application, e.g. low freeboard, damaged pond lining, ponding, split hoses, leaking or damaged fittings, pump or irrigator faults.
- identifying causes of common faults and selecting appropriate basic corrective actions.
- basic corrective actions within own level of responsibility, e.g. clearing blockages, replacing or tightening hoses and fittings, isolating damaged components, reporting faults requiring specialist repair.
- maintenance and troubleshooting of dairy effluent management systems, e.g. routine checks, cleaning, replacing worn components (hoses, connectors, fittings).
- responding to identified problems through maintenance and simple corrective actions.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#).
- [Resource Management Act 1991](#).
- [NZCP1: Design and Operation of Farm Dairies](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Knowledge Hub](#) – effluent management and the environment (DairyNZ).

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Agriculture > Dairy Farming
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 August 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard replaced unit standard 32008.		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2031		

Please contact the Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board at info@foodandfibreisb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.