

41295**Harvest milk while maintaining dairy livestock health and wellbeing**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	10
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is intended for people working in a dairy farming operation. They will be able to prepare and carry out milk harvesting, maintain dairy livestock health and wellbeing, and meet compliance requirements that support milk quality, under limited supervision. This skill standard is aligned to the New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 3) [Ref: 5680] and the Milk Harvesting Fundamentals Micro-Credential (Level 3) [Ref: 5633-1].

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Prepare and carry out milk harvesting from dairy livestock.	a. Maintain personal health and safety in and around a farm dairy.
	b. Prepare the farm dairy for milk harvesting activities.
	c. Use efficient milk harvesting techniques.
	d. Separate milk unsuitable for collection.
	e. Assist with maintaining milk quality during milk harvesting.
	f. Observe and report on milk harvesting activities.
2. Maintain dairy livestock health and wellbeing.	a. Maintain an environment conducive to animal safety and wellbeing, and efficient milk harvesting.
	b. Recognise and report signs of common udder health issues and take appropriate measures
3. Meet compliance requirements during milk harvesting.	a. Carry out tasks as directed relating to meeting supplier assurance requirements for milk harvesting.
	b. Identify consequences of non-conformance to the farm business.

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

All activities must be carried out in accordance with workplace procedures, workplace health and safety requirements and, wherever relevant, the Code of Welfare: Dairy Cattle, the Code of Welfare: Sheep and Beef Cattle, and/or the Code of Welfare: Goats.

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. A verifier's checklist with appropriate comments confirming competency is acceptable if accompanied by evidence that includes examples from the ākonga/learner's performance.

Definitions:

Dairy livestock refers to ruminant animals that are farmed specifically for their milk.

Farm dairy refers to the milking facility and associated equipment, including the milking plant, bulk milk tank, and supporting infrastructure used for milk harvesting, cooling, cleaning, and storage.

Milk harvesting activities refer to activities undertaken during preparation, milking, milk quality management, and bulk milk storage and cooling.

Wellbeing refers to an animal's physical and mental welfare, in accordance with the relevant Codes of Welfare.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content**Health and safety**

- use of personal protective equipment, e.g. gloves, aprons.
- personal hygiene and safety, e.g. washing wrists and hands, no food, no smoking or drinking in the dairy, keeping others safe.
- safe distances and animal flight zones.
- correct body and head position.

Prepare milking plant, bulk milk tank and farm dairy.

- prepare the milk plant for operation, e.g. correct position of clusters, fitting filter socks, vacuum bungs, milk line, start-up plant, reset technology.
- prepare the farm dairy for operation, e.g. backing gate, dairy yard gates, separate yarding for drafted dairy livestock.
- bulk milk tank preparation, e.g. check the milk line, replace the door seal, turn on the chiller, check the chiller.

Milk harvesting

- milking systems and their impact on cow flow, e.g. rotary, herringbone, robotic systems, Automatic Cup Removers (ACR).
- efficient milk harvesting techniques, e.g. cupping, cup removal, maintain livestock flow, backing gate operation, where to stand to maintain livestock flow.
- milk contaminants affecting milk quality during harvesting, e.g. faecal matter, banned substances, water, chemicals, sediment.
- prevention of milk quality issues during harvesting, e.g. prepare teats for milking, remove faeces from harvesting area during milking, avoid contamination, maintain hygienic milking practices.
- use of milk docket and supplier information to identify milk quality issues related to milk harvesting, e.g. somatic cell count, sediment, coliform, sensory indicators, colostrum, temperature, cooling requirements.
- milking observations, e.g. identifying slow milkers, blood in milk, uneven milking, poor milk-out, problems with the milking plant, slipping cups, change in pulsation.
- milk separation protocols, e.g. abnormal milk, blood contamination, prohibited substances, colostrum, transition milk, MRST (Mark, Record, Separate, Treat), supplier requirements.
- milk cooling systems and temperature management, e.g. temperature standards, cooling timeframes, bulk milk storage refrigeration, chiller checks.

Animal health and welfare

- udder health and udder problems, e.g. swollen udder, uneven quarters, mastitis, cracked teats.
- basic udder care solutions, e.g. applying emollients, mastitis treatment.
- safe animal environment, e.g. low-stress environment, consistent noise levels, no dogs.
- teat spraying, e.g. auto-spraying, sufficient coverage, technique.

Farm assurance

- supplier assurance requirements, e.g. no pests, proximity of non-dairy animals to the farm dairy, clean floors and walls.
- consequences of non-conformance, e.g. grades, financial penalties.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Health and Safety at Work Act \(2015\)](#).
- [Animal Welfare Act \(1999\)](#).
- [Code of Welfare: Sheep and Beef Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare: Dairy Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary industries).
- [Code of Welfare: Goats](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Operational Code: NZCP1: Design and Operation of Farm Dairies](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [NZCP2: Code of Practice for the Assessment of Farm Dairies](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Milking guidelines and resources](#) (DairyNZ).
- Farm specific dairy company assurance programmes.

Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | 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 standards 28939 and 32010.		
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.