

41296**Manage milk harvesting and farm dairy operations to optimise milk quality**

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	15
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is intended for people working in a dairy farming operation. They will be able to manage milk harvesting and farm dairy operations to optimise and maintain milk quality. This skill standard is aligned to the New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 4) [Ref: 5677].

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Manage the milk harvesting process to optimise milk quality.	a. Manage milk harvesting routines.
	b. Manage livestock acclimatisation to the farm dairy environment and routines to support efficient milk harvesting.
	c. Maintain records of livestock treatments.
	d. Analyse, report on and implement improvements to milk harvesting efficiency.
2. Manage farm dairy operations to maintain milk quality.	a. Manage cleaning routines for the farm dairy.
	b. Evaluate how on-farm practices impact milk quality and suitability for processing.
	c. Manage routine inspections, maintenance, and reporting on milk quality status.
	d. Manage compliance with supplier assurance requirements related to milk harvesting and farm dairy cleaning.

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: Goats, and/or the Code of Welfare: Sheep and Beef 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. 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:

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 routines refers to practices that make the milking process more comfortable for the animal and efficient for the milker.

Non-compliant milk refers to raw milk that does not meet the regulatory standards set out in the Animal Products Regulations (2021).

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Milk harvesting

- milk harvesting routines, e.g. stockmanship, wash and dry dirty teats, foremilk stripping, calm practice, livestock health and welfare, mastitis management, disposal of non-compliant milk.
- managing livestock acclimatisation to the farm dairy, e.g. walk new livestock through the farm dairy prior to parturition, positive human-livestock interactions, gradual introduction of milk harvesting processes.
- recording livestock treatments, e.g. type of treatment, withholding period, recording methods.
- milk harvesting efficiency, e.g. MaxT milking, milking by time, cow flow, pulsation and vacuum, layout efficiencies, personnel efficiencies.
- monitoring milk harvesting performance, e.g. observing cow flow, plant performance, and milking consistency.
- analysing and improving milk harvesting efficiency, e.g. identifying constraints, implementing changes, reviewing outcomes.

Milk quality

- milk quality issues, e.g. grade troubleshooting (e.g. visual inspections, cleaning deficiencies, making and breaking connections), isolate and remedy milk quality issues (e.g. cleaning deficiencies, equipment faults (including liners), contamination sources).
- reporting on milk quality, e.g. SCC trends, changes in milk quality status, use of milk dockets.
- final customer products and processor requirements, e.g. Domestic and export requirements, dairy company requirements.

Farm dairy cleaning and hygiene

- cleaning routines and standard operating procedures for the farm dairy, milking plant, and bulk milk tank, e.g. metrics, risk management (e.g. PPE, chemical dispensers, chemical storage).
- monitoring effectiveness of cleaning routines, e.g. verifying wash performance, identifying trends, adjusting routines based on outcomes.
- routine inspection of cleaning systems, e.g. spray balls, lines, filters, chemical dispensers, hot water systems.
- identifying and responding to cleaning and hygiene faults, e.g. inadequate wash cycles, residue build-up, equipment malfunction.
- integration of cleaning routines with milk quality outcomes, e.g. links between poor cleaning and contamination or grade failures.
- risk management during cleaning, e.g. PPE, chemical safety, hot water hazards.
- scheduling and coordination of cleaning routines within milk harvesting operations.
- documentation and reporting of cleaning activities, maintenance, and issues.
- compliance with supplier assurance and regulatory requirements related to farm dairy hygiene.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Health and Safety at Work Act \(2015\)](#).
- [Animal Welfare Act \(1999\)](#).
- [Animal Products Regulations \(2021\)](#).
- [Code of Welfare: Dairy Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare: Goats](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare: Sheep and Beef Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Operational Code: NZCP1: Design and Operation of Farm Dairies](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Disposal of Non-conforming Dairy Material or Dairy Product](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Milk harvesting and milk quality resources](#) (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 standards 28854 and 28855.		
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.