

41297**Handle, move, and assess livestock to maintain animal welfare and safety**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	5
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is intended for people working, or intending to work, with livestock, including beef cattle, dairy livestock, deer and sheep, in various farming environments. They will be able to handle livestock using low-stress handling techniques, move livestock safely, and assess livestock health, welfare and behaviour, including readiness for transport, under limited supervision. This skill standard is aligned to the New Zealand Certificate in Farm Skills (Level 3) [Ref: 5678].

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Handle, move, and assess livestock to maintain animal welfare and safety.	a. Select equipment appropriate to the livestock type and handling procedure.
	b. Apply appropriate restraint required to handle livestock.
	c. Respond appropriately to changes in animal behaviour during handling.
	d. Prepare for and carry out livestock movement using low-stress techniques without harm to self, others, livestock, or infrastructure.
	e. Observe livestock during movement and report on behaviour and health.
	f. Perform welfare and health checks to determine livestock readiness for transport.
	g. Record and report on livestock movement, including sending or receiving livestock, in accordance with workplace procedures.

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 species and context for which the learner is being assessed.

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 learner's performance.

Evidence requirement

Ākonga/learners will be assessed in at least one livestock species (cattle, deer, sheep or goats) in either a dairy or non-dairy context.

Definitions

Appropriate action refers to an action taken following a risk assessment, and may include taking no action, taking a break, seeking assistance, intervening.

Equipment refers to the clothing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and tools or devices used when handling livestock to support safe, effective, and low-stress handling. This includes protective clothing (e.g. overalls, boots, gloves), PPE (e.g. helmets, hearing protection, eye protection), and handling equipment (e.g. sticks, paddles, panels, gates, ropes, or other aids) used as appropriate to the livestock type and the procedure being carried out.

Livestock movement refers to the movement of livestock within or between locations and includes sending or receiving livestock in accordance with workplace requirements.

Low-stress techniques refer to methods used when handling and moving livestock that minimise fear, distress, and injury by working with animals' natural behaviour. This includes the calm use of position, movement, and pressure, applying principles such as flight zones, points of balance, and herd behaviour, and avoiding rushing, excessive force, or unnecessary noise or equipment in line with accepted industry practice.

Workplace procedures refer to the documented or verbal procedures used in a workplace for livestock handling, movement, assessment, recording, and reporting. These may include health and safety, animal welfare, biosecurity, traceability, equipment use, communication, and reporting requirements relevant to the livestock type and workplace context.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content**Livestock handling**

- appropriate clothing, PPE and equipment for the livestock type and handling procedure, e.g. long pants when moving deer, milking apron, gumboots, steel-capped boots.
- Code of Welfare requirements relevant to the handling procedure.
- low-stress handling techniques, e.g. calm approach, use of position and pressure, avoiding behaviours that cause fear or distress, and recognising factors that influence animal response.
- handling livestock in sensitive situations, e.g. neonates, postpartum dams, and animals with dependent young, using low-stress techniques that maintain animal welfare and manage health and safety risks.
- directing livestock in confined handling areas, e.g. providing direction, motivating movement, applying and releasing pressure appropriately.
- appropriate restraint, e.g. holding and restraining animals in areas that won't impact on the health and welfare of the animal, such as wool, tails, horns or other appendages.
- behavioural signs of stress, e.g. fight or flight, vocalisation, exit speed, defecation, urination, tail position, ear position, orbital glands, wide eyes, facial expression.
- spatial awareness when handling livestock, e.g. flight zones, safe working zones appropriate to species, the influence of individual animals on groups.
- factors that affect livestock response during handling, e.g. environment, noise, machinery, tools, unfamiliar objects.

Livestock movement

- planning a route, e.g. to and from a paddock, livestock type, livestock experience, other livestock along the route, smother points along the route (e.g. bridges, sharp corners, gateways), time required to complete movement, driving requirements, escape option for animals, appropriateness of distance.
- managing hazards, e.g. weather, traffic, PPE use (e.g. high visibility clothing, appropriate clothing for the task).
- resourcing, e.g. additional people, signs, flashing lights, animal first aid, water.
- movement tools, e.g. appropriate use, flags, stock sticks, backing gates.
- setting up for movement, e.g. yarding, securing gates, paddocks, temporary electric fences, new paddock, return paddock, virtual fencing.
- carrying out livestock movement in accordance with a movement plan, e.g. positioning, pacing, direction, maintaining livestock flow.
- observing livestock during and after movement, e.g. signs of abnormal behaviour, ill health, injury, fatigue, stress.
- group behaviour and social structure of livestock as it affects movement.
- use of flight zones and balance points to support low-stress livestock movement.
- pacing livestock movement to maintain flow and minimise stress.
- allowing livestock to settle after movement.
- livestock flow in yards.

Livestock transport

- pre-transport welfare and health checks, e.g. fitness for transport, signs of illness or injury, use of relevant workplace or industry guidance (e.g. Fit For Transport app).
- recording and reporting livestock movement information for sending or receiving livestock, e.g. livestock numbers, destination, purpose of movement, traceability requirements and workplace systems (e.g. NAIT, MINDA, CRV, FarmIQ, OSPRI).
- completing or contributing to Animal Status Declaration (ASD) requirements.
- hazards associated with preparing livestock for transport or receiving livestock, e.g. ramp surfaces, positioning, safe handling around loading or unloading areas.
- checking received livestock for illness, injury or signs of stress.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Health and Safety at Work Act \(2015\)](#).
- [Animal Welfare Act \(1999\)](#).
- [Animal Welfare \(Care and Procedures\) Regulations 2018](#).
- [Code of Welfare – Dairy Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Deer](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Goats](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Sheep and Beef Cattle](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Transport within New Zealand](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Animal status declarations](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Fit For Transport app](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [National Animal Identification and Tracing \(NAIT\) programme](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [National Traceability Scheme](#) (OSPRI).

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 > Farming Skills
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 19115.		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2031		

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