

41304**Carry out livestock feed production activities**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	15
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is intended for learners working in livestock farming systems where crops are grown or managed for feed. These systems may include cattle, deer, goats, sheep, and mixed pastoral/arable contexts. They will be able to identify features of a crop rotation plan for livestock feed production, carry out seedbed preparation and crop planting activities, and carry out crop management activities for intended livestock feed use, under limited supervision. This skill standard aligns with 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. Identify features of a crop rotation plan.	a. Describe the purpose and effects of crop rotation in relation to feed production.
	b. Describe seasonal stages of a crop rotation plan in terms of yield, quality and end use.
2. Carry out seedbed preparation and crop planting activities.	a. Conduct soil sampling for soil testing.
	b. Interpret soil test results in relation to crop requirements.
	c. Carry out seedbed preparation tasks as directed.
	d. Carry out planting activities as directed.
	e. Report observations on seed placement.
	f. Report observations on crop establishment.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
3. Carry out crop management activities.	a. Collect samples for herbage testing.
	b. Interpret herbage test report and identify areas for improvement in terms of feed quality and suitability for livestock.
	c. Identify and report weeds, pests, and crop health issues.
	d. Observe and report on crop growth stages in relation to intended livestock feed use.
	e. Carry out crop- and end-use-specific management tasks, as directed, in relation to crop condition and intended livestock feed use.

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 manufacturer's specifications.

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.

Definitions:

Crop refers to plants grown to provide feed for livestock and may include forage crops (e.g. developed pasture, undeveloped pasture, pasture herbs, clover, fodder beet, forage brassicas, forage cereals, maize) and grain and seed (e.g. wheat, barley, vegetables).

Livestock feed use refers to crops grown or managed for livestock consumption, including grazing, silage, baleage, hay, forage, grain or supplementary feed, where crop selection, management and timing are determined by livestock nutritional requirements, feed quality, and intended end use.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content**Crop rotation**

- reasons for crop rotation, e.g. soil contamination, disease and pest mitigation, nutrient balance, implications of successive crops.
- seasonal timing and sequencing of crops in relation to yield, feed quality and intended livestock end use.
- order of crop rotation, e.g. grass to grass, grass to crop to grass/crop.
- role of pasture in crop rotation.
- yield requirements, e.g. type and number of animals being fed.

Seedbed preparation

- seedbed preparation by crop type and intended livestock feed use.
- soil structure, soil moisture, compaction, drainage, and tilth in relation to crop establishment.
- soil test results by crop requirements.
- soil testing and fertility, e.g. taking soil cores, reading soil test results, identifying crop nutrient requirements, pH, nutrient deficiencies and consequences of deficiencies.
- paddock preparation between crops, e.g. spraying, grazing off, cultivation, ploughing, rolling, levelling, burning off where permitted, removing crop residues.
- supporting seedbed preparation activities, e.g. checking paddock and soil conditions, preparing or checking cultivation equipment, clearing obstacles, identifying wet or compacted areas, reporting issues.
- recording seedbed preparation information, e.g. paddock, crop, date, conditions, preparation completed, and observations.

Planting crops

- planting requirements by crop type, sowing method, and intended livestock feed use.
- supporting planting activities, e.g. pre-start equipment checks, loading seed, confirming crop type, seed type, paddock, sowing rate, and planting method against the crop plan.
- checking planting equipment settings as directed, e.g. seed rate, fertiliser rate where relevant, sowing depth, row spacing, and seed flow.
- monitoring planting operations, e.g. blockages, skips, overlaps, uneven seed distribution, seed damage, or equipment issues.
- seed placement observations, e.g. sowing depth, spacing, soil coverage, and seed-to-soil contact.
- crop establishment observations, e.g. germination, emergence uniformity, plant population, and early signs of weed, pest, or disease issues.
- recording planting information, e.g. paddock, crop, date, seed type, seed rate, fertiliser rate where relevant, conditions, and observations.

Crop growth

- herbage testing, e.g. collecting representative samples, dry matter testing, feed quality testing, nitrate testing, mineral testing, pasture per hectare, testing for disease-causing organisms (e.g. facial eczema, Ergot).
- interpreting herbage test results in relation to feed quality, livestock suitability, and areas for improvement, e.g. palatability, nutritional value, grazing timing, supplementary feed use.
- growth stages relevant to crop type and intended livestock feed use, e.g. emergence, vegetative growth, tillering, reproductive stage, maturity, Zadoks growth stages.
- crop condition observations, e.g. plant population, colour, vigour, moisture stress, lodging, weed pressure, pest or disease symptoms.
- interventions at growth stages, e.g. water requirements, nutrient requirements, recognising signs of pests and disease, weed pressure.
- factors affecting yield and feed quality, e.g. crop condition, plant population, soil moisture, nutrient availability, pest or disease pressure, grazing or harvest timing.
- crop end uses, e.g. grazing, silage, baleage, hay, forage, grain, supplementary feed.
- crop-specific and end-use-specific management tasks, e.g. checking soil moisture, assisting with irrigation or nutrient application, grazing or harvest preparation, nitrate testing, mycotoxin testing.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#).
- [Feed planning resources](#) (Beef + Lamb).
- [Feeding resources](#) (DairyNZ).
- [Feeding resources](#) (Deer Industry NZ).
- Farm-specific Standard Operating Procedures.

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 32089.		
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.