

41308**Prepare livestock for mating and support mating activities**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	10
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is intended for people working with livestock in pastoral or dairy farming systems, including cattle, deer, goats and sheep. They will be able to identify livestock mating requirements and readiness indicators, carry out pre-mating activities, and support livestock mating activities and monitoring in a farming operation, under limited supervision. This skill standard aligns with 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. Prepare livestock for mating.	a. Determine livestock mating goals in relation to the farm production system.
	b. Describe selection criteria and mating group requirements in relation to mating goals.
	c. Compare livestock condition with target body condition score in relation to mating readiness.
	d. Carry out pre-mating activities to prepare livestock for mating.
2. Support livestock mating activities.	a. Carry out mating activities, with guidance.
	b. Monitor mating activity and report factors that may affect mating outcomes.
	c. Record and report mating information 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.

Ākonga/learners will be assessed in at least one livestock species (cattle, deer, sheep or goats).

Pre-mating activities should reflect the species, farm system, workplace procedures, and learner role. Activities may include body condition management, routine preventative health treatments, reproductive preparation, livestock handling or movement, equipment preparation, record checking, and reporting of concerns.

Examples of mating-related activities may vary by species and farm system and may include natural mating, artificial breeding, heat detection, sire management, mating group management, reproductive monitoring, and recording of mating information.

Evidence for mating and monitoring activities may be gathered before, during, or after the mating period where this reflects normal workplace practice. Direct observation of mating is not required.

For Learning Outcome 2, assessment evidence must distinguish between practical participation in mating-related activities and monitoring/reporting factors that may affect mating outcomes.

Evidence requirement

Evidence for carrying out mating activities must include practical participation in at least two mating-related activities relevant to the workplace. Where assessment is in a dairy cattle context, one of those activities must include heat/oestrus detection.

Definition

Livestock refers to cattle, deer, sheep, and goats kept and managed for production purposes in pastoral or dairy farming systems.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Mating goals, selection, and mating readiness

- mating goals, livestock classes, mating system, timing, expected parturition or calving period, production or reproductive targets.
- mating programme requirements, e.g. natural mating, artificial breeding programmes, heat detection, planned start of mating, mating period length, expected parturition or calving spread, reproductive performance targets.
- reproductive terms and measures relevant to the mating programme, e.g. oestrus, anoestrus, cycling status, submission rate, conception rate, pregnancy rate, lambing or calving percentage, scanning results, empty rate, expected parturition or calving dates.
- selection criteria for livestock entering the mating programme, e.g. age, liveweight, body condition, health status, reproductive history, cycling status, calving date, days in milk, genetic or breeding information, production information, intended destination of offspring.

- suitability of female livestock and sires, where used, in relation to mating goals, e.g. dam suitability, mothering ability, sire soundness, sire health, sire-to-dam ratios, semen selection, nominated matings, estimated breeding values, breeding indexes, breeding worth, herd improvement information, stud or commercial breeding information.
- mating group or herd requirements, e.g. mating mobs or groups, sire allocation, sire rotation or removal, artificial breeding groups, non-cyclers, replacement animals, culls, animals not suitable for mating.
- body condition scoring and comparison with workplace or industry targets.
- relationship between condition, nutrition, animal health, cycling, conception, pregnancy, parturition or calving outcomes.
- animal welfare, health, biosecurity, workplace requirements relevant to mating.

Pre-mating preparation

- preparing livestock, facilities, equipment, records for mating.
- drafting, identifying, checking, grouping livestock before mating.
- checking sires, where used, for health, soundness, condition, identification, mating readiness.
- pre-mating health and reproductive preparation activities, e.g. body condition management, mineral supplementation, vaccinations, parasite control, flushing, teaser use, synchronisation, controlled internal drug release devices (CIDRs), treatment or management of non-cyclers.
- preparation of mating aids or reproductive equipment, e.g. ram harnesses, mating marks, scratch pads or scratchies, tail paint, heat detection aids, artificial breeding equipment, identification equipment.
- preparing livestock for natural mating or artificial breeding, e.g. allocating animals to mating groups or paddocks, preparing cows or heifers for artificial breeding, preparing for sire introduction or rotation, checking semen selection, nominated mating, breeding or reproductive records.
- animal handling and movement requirements relevant to pre-mating activities, e.g. safe movement, low-stress handling, yarding, drafting, restraint, presentation for treatment or breeding.
- workplace health and safety, animal welfare, hygiene, biosecurity requirements relevant to pre-mating preparation.
- reporting concerns before mating begins, e.g. health concerns, poor body condition, injury, lameness, reproductive issues, sire concerns, identification or record discrepancies.

Mating activities and monitoring

- mating-related activities, e.g. moving, handling, drafting or presenting livestock; confirming livestock identity and allocation; introducing, removing or rotating sires; preparing or supporting artificial breeding activities.
- natural mating activities, e.g. allocating livestock to mating mobs or paddocks, checking sire allocation, observing mating group activity, checking mating marks, identifying serving activity where observable.
- artificial breeding activities, e.g. preparing animals for artificial breeding, assisting with heat detection, presenting animals for artificial breeding, supporting technician access, checking breeding or nominated mating information.

- monitoring livestock before, during or after mating, e.g. body condition, health status, cycling activity, returns, non-cyclers, mating marks, heat detection aids, sire performance, mating group or herd activity.
- factors that may affect mating outcomes, e.g. livestock health, body condition, nutrition, weather, paddock or facility conditions, stocking pressure, mob or herd management, timing, handling stress, sire soundness, semen quality, heat detection accuracy.
- indicators requiring reporting or follow-up, e.g. normal or abnormal mating indicators, injury, lameness, poor condition, non-cycling, failure to mate, unexpected returns, poor sire performance, incorrect allocation, identification issues, welfare concerns.
- management practices that support mating outcomes, e.g. low-stress handling, maintaining mating groups or herds, minimising disruption, managing sire rotation or removal, supporting heat detection routines, maintaining hygiene and biosecurity.
- workplace health and safety, animal welfare, hygiene, biosecurity requirements relevant to mating activities and monitoring.

Recording and reporting mating information

- workplace requirements for recording and reporting mating information.
- animal identification and mating information, e.g. animal ID, livestock class, mating group or herd, mating date, mating period, paddock or mob allocation.
- sire, semen or breeding information, where relevant, e.g. sire ID, sire allocation, sire rotation or replacement, semen details, artificial breeding records, nominated mating records, bull mating records.
- monitoring and reproductive information, e.g. heat detection records, tail paint or heat detection aid records, returns, non-cyclers, mating marks, serving activity, sire performance concerns.
- pregnancy and outcome information, e.g. pregnancy diagnosis, scanning results, expected parturition or calving dates, expected parturition or calving spread, empty animals, culls, replacements.
- reporting requirements, e.g. health or welfare concerns, reproductive concerns, identification or record discrepancies, issues affecting mating outcomes, follow-up actions.
- workplace systems used for recording and reporting, e.g. paper-based records, farm management software, herd recording systems, breeding company records, supervisor reports.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)
- [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)
- [Animal Welfare in New Zealand](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries)
- [Knowledge Hub](#) (Beef and Lamb New Zealand)
- [Reproduction and mating](#) (DairyNZ)

- [Deer Hub](#) (Deer Industry NZ)
- Farm animal health plans and calendars
- Farm-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for livestock mating.

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 > Livestock Husbandry
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 28972.		
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.