

41309 Care for dams and youngstock from parturition to weaning

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	5
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is intended for people working with livestock in pastoral farming systems, including beef cattle, deer, goats and sheep. People credited with this standard will be able to care for dams and youngstock from parturition to weaning in accordance with workplace procedures and farming operation weaning criteria, 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. Care for dams and youngstock from parturition to weaning.	a. Carry out pre-weaning care of dams and youngstock.
	b. Carry out weaning procedures.
	c. Record stock and weaning information.

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

Assessment specifications:

All activities must be carried out in accordance with farming operation weaning criteria, 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).

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content**Pre-weaning care**

- growth and condition targets for dams and youngstock in relation to weaning, e.g. body condition score, target liveweight, age, growth rate.
- nutritional requirements of dams and youngstock prior to weaning, e.g. pasture quality and quantity, supplementary feed, access to clean water, feed changes during transition.
- development of youngstock prior to weaning, e.g. rumen development, transition to feed independence.
- preparation of dams and youngstock for weaning in accordance with workplace procedures, e.g. mob planning, paddock or yard preparation, feed and water availability, identifying animals requiring separate management.
- factors affecting weaning readiness in dams and youngstock, e.g. age, liveweight, body condition, health status, feed independence, dam milk supply, weather conditions.
- responding to pre-weaning issues by reporting or following workplace procedures, e.g. reporting poor growth, separating out unthrifty animals, following instructions for animals with health or welfare concerns.
- animal health, welfare, and environmental considerations relevant to the period prior to weaning, e.g. shelter, weather events, parasite challenge, disease risk, mismothering, biosecurity requirements, moving dams with offspring at foot.
- minimising stress in dams and youngstock before weaning, e.g. gradual transition to independence, consistent mob groupings, low-stress handling, maintaining familiar feed and water access.

Weaning criteria and procedures

- farming operation weaning criteria, e.g. age, weight, body condition, health status, feed independence.
- timing of weaning in relation to farm system and stock condition, e.g. feed availability, seasonal conditions, management timing, dam condition, youngstock development.
- supervised weaning procedures, e.g. separating dams and youngstock, drafting into mobs, moving stock to designated paddocks, checking feed and water after separation.
- minimising stress for dams and youngstock during weaning, e.g. calm handling, reducing time off feed and water, maintaining appropriate mob groupings.
- post-weaning checks and follow-up actions, e.g. monitoring for stress, checking stock have settled, identifying animals requiring additional care, reporting losses or health concerns.
- adjustments to management following weaning, e.g. feed allocation changes, mob reorganisation, monitoring growth, managing dams after lactation.

Stock and weaning records

- stock tallies and reconciliation, e.g. replacements, lambing percentage, deaths.
- recording weaning information, e.g. date of weaning, number of animals weaned, animals requiring follow-up, deaths, missing stock.
- identification of animals where required by workplace procedures, e.g. ear tags, visual identification, electronic identification.

- recording systems, e.g. logbooks, digital systems, farm apps.
- recording requirements for farm assurance programmes and legislative requirements, e.g. traceability records, animal health treatment records, National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT).

Rauemi | Resources

- [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#).
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#).
- [National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012](#).
- [Animal Welfare \(Care and Procedures\) Regulations 2018](#).
- [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).
- [Animal health and welfare](#) (Deer Industry NZ).
- [Animal health and welfare](#) (Beef + Lamb New Zealand).
- McCoard, SA, FW Knol and DR Stevens, [Lamb Rearing Technical Manual](#). AgResearch, 2020.
- Farm-specific animal health plans and calendars.
- 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 > 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, and skill standard 41311, replaced unit standards 581, 24644, and 28980.		
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.