

41312 Prepare livestock for parturition and monitor parturition 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 beef cattle, deer, goats and sheep. They will be able to prepare livestock for parturition, monitor parturition progress and immediate post-partum outcomes, support routine parturition and immediate post-partum care activities, and record parturition outcomes, 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. Carry out pre-parturition preparation and monitoring of livestock.	a. Monitor and report body condition and general health of pregnant livestock in relation to parturition readiness.
	b. Prepare livestock for parturition.
	c. Identify and report environmental and management factors that may impact parturition outcomes.
2. Monitor livestock parturition and immediate post-partum outcomes.	a. Identify signs of normal and abnormal parturition progress and determine appropriate action.
	b. Carry out parturition activities.
	c. Monitor post-partum dam and neonate wellbeing and support immediate post-partum care requirements.
	d. Record parturition outcomes.

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 Maori](#).

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. Where naturally occurring evidence is unavailable or limited, assessment may be supported by realistic, simulated scenarios, case-based evidence, or supervisor-verified discussion that reflects the relevant farm system conditions and the requirements of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Evidence for preparing for parturition must reflect the species, farm system, workplace procedures, and learner role. Preparation may include livestock, paddock, facility, equipment, hygiene, record, grouping, movement, or environmental readiness activities. Learners are not required to complete every listed activity, but evidence must show preparation appropriate to the workplace context.

Evidence for post-partum monitoring and care must reflect the species, farm system, workplace procedures, and learner role. In extensive or low-contact systems, evidence may include observation from an appropriate distance, identifying dam or neonate welfare concerns, monitoring mob or paddock conditions, maintaining low disturbance, reporting concerns, escalating issues, and supporting follow-up actions. Learners are not required to physically handle dams or neonates where this is not appropriate to the farm system or workplace procedures.

Parturition activities may include observation, maintaining low-disturbance conditions, preparation or use of equipment or facilities, hygiene practices, animal management, supervised assistance with parturition difficulties, reporting or escalation, recording observations, and follow-up actions.

Assessment for this standard does not require learners to perform independent clinical or unsupervised interventions.

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

Assessment may occur in a pastoral livestock system, a dairy livestock system, or another agriculture workplace context where cattle, deer, sheep, or goats are managed for parturition.

Definitions

Immediate post-partum period refers to the first 48 hours after parturition.

Interventions refers to planned or responsive actions used to support livestock before, during, or after parturition, in accordance with workplace procedures. These may include routine preventative health actions, preparation of equipment or facilities, hygiene practices, animal management, supervised assistance with parturition difficulties, reporting, escalation, recording, and follow-up actions.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content**Preparing for livestock parturition**

- indicators of imminent parturition, including behavioural and physical signs.
- body condition, feeding, general health, and parturition readiness of pregnant livestock.
- routine preventative health interventions for pregnant livestock, where relevant to the species, farm system, workplace procedures, and learner role.
- preparation for parturition relevant to the species, farm system, workplace procedures, and learner role.
- preparation of livestock, paddocks, yards, pens, barns, feed-pad systems, sheds, shelters, facilities, equipment, hygiene materials, parturition areas, parturition kits, identification equipment, recording tools, e.g. ropes or straps, gloves or sleeves, lubricant, towels, cleaning and disinfection supplies, tags, bands, notebook, management app.
- grouping, moving, identifying, observing, and managing livestock before parturition, where relevant.
- management practices that minimise disturbance and support dam and neonate welfare, e.g. maintaining mob integrity, managing stocking or mob pressure, reducing mismothering risk where relevant.
- environmental readiness for parturition, e.g. weather, shelter, terrain, surface or underfoot conditions, feed and water access, hygiene, stocking pressure, mob pressure, access for monitoring or assistance.
- environmental and management factors that may impact parturition outcomes, e.g. weather exposure, feed availability, terrain, shelter, paddock or facility hygiene, disturbance, observation frequency, timing of movement, alignment with workplace procedures.
- observation methods suitable for the farm system, e.g. paddock rounds, distance observation, remote or camera-based observation, low-disturbance monitoring, close observation in dairy parturition systems.
- reporting parturition readiness, completed preparation, environmental or management risks, escalation requirements in accordance with workplace procedures.
- reproductive, production, and traceability record requirements.
- workplace health and safety, animal welfare, hygiene, and biosecurity requirements.

Supporting parturition and post-partum care

- stages of parturition, signs of normal progress, and signs requiring reporting or escalation.
- common abnormal presentations or parturition difficulties, including failure to progress, prolonged labour, abnormal presentation, retained membranes, prolapse, oversized foetus, or signs of distress.
- items used for parturition support and hygiene, e.g. gloves or sleeves, lubricant, ropes or straps, towels, cleaning and disinfection supplies, colostrum or feeding equipment, identification equipment.
- assisting with supervised interventions, e.g. preparing equipment or facilities, maintaining hygiene, assisting with animal management, recording observations, supporting follow-up actions.
- post-partum monitoring methods appropriate to the species, farm system, workplace procedures, learner role, e.g. close observation, paddock checks, distance observation, low-disturbance monitoring, follow-up observation.

- indicators of dam and neonate wellbeing, e.g. maternal behaviour, neonate vigour, suckling or feeding, dam–neonate bonding, dam–neonate matching, mobility, warmth, shelter use, signs of distress, separation, injury, compromised welfare.
- immediate post-partum care requirements for dams and neonates, e.g. shelter, warmth, feeding or suckling, colostrum or initial feeding requirements where relevant, hygiene, follow-up monitoring, escalation of concerns.
- monitoring and reporting dam or neonate welfare concerns in extensive, low-contact, high-country, or low-disturbance systems.
- management practices that support dam and neonate wellbeing, e.g. maintaining mob integrity, minimising disturbance, supporting bonding, reducing mismothering risk, managing exposure or adverse weather risks.
- identification and management of orphaned, mismothered, separated, weak, injured, or compromised young in accordance with workplace procedures.
- post-partum conditions or risks for dams and neonates, e.g. retained membranes, prolapse, mastitis, metabolic disorders, exposure, hypothermia, poor neonate vigour, poor mothering, increased mismothering risk.
- situations where physical handling of dams or neonates may be limited or inappropriate, e.g. species, terrain, farm system, animal welfare, biosecurity, health and safety, workplace procedures.
- recording parturition outcomes, treatment, production, dam and neonate details, complications, actions taken, and traceability information in accordance with workplace procedures.

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 + Lamb NZ).
- [CalvingSmart Workshop](#) (DairyNZ).
- [Deer hub](#) (Deer Industry NZ).
- Farm animal health plans and calendars.
- Farm-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for livestock parturition.
- McCoard, SA, FW Knol and DR Stevens, [Lamb Rearing Technical Manual](#). AgResearch, 2020.

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 28973.		
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.