

## Prepare for calving and calve cows

**Level** 4

**Credits** 8

**Purpose** People credited with this unit standard are able to: monitor, record, and report on cows preparing to calve; calve cows; and provide post-calving care.

**Subfield** Agriculture

**Domain** Cattle Farming

**Status** Registered

**Status date** 17 July 2009

**Date version published** 17 July 2009

**Planned review date** 31 December 2014

**Entry information** Open.

**Accreditation** Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA, industry and teaching professional in the same field from another provider.

**Standard setting body (SSB)** Primary Industry Training Organisation

**Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference** 0052

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

---

### Special notes

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes the – Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Animal Welfare Act 1999, and their subsequent amendments.
- 2 Performance of all aspects of this unit standard should comply with the *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dairy Cattle* (Wellington: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1992).
- 3 Definition  
*On-farm procedures* – the verbal or written instructions to staff on procedures for animal health, welfare, management.

---

## Elements and performance criteria

### Element 1

Monitor, record, and report on cows preparing to calve.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Cows preparing to calve are checked regularly and reported to the supervisor in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 1.2 Unhealthy cows are recognised, appropriate action is taken promptly, and action taken is reported to the supervisor in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 1.3 Preventative measures are implemented and monitored to avoid metabolic problems.
- Range may include but is not limited to – provision of adequate feed, provision of shelter, magnesium supplementation, calcium supplementation; evidence is required for at least two.
- 1.4 Metabolic diseases are identified and treated in accordance with on-farm procedures and veterinary advice.
- Range may include but is not limited to – milk fever (hypocalcaemia), grass staggers (hypomagnesaemia), ketosis (acetoanaemia); evidence is required for at least two.
- 1.5 At-risk cows and cows showing calving difficulty are identified and monitored in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 1.6 Records are maintained in accordance with on-farm procedures.

### Element 2

Calve cows.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Cows are calved in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- Range evidence is required for at least three cows.
- 2.2 Calving difficulty is assessed, and assistance provided or specialist assistance is summoned, in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- Range includes but is not limited to – oversize calves, abnormal presentation, twisted uterus, non or partial dilation of cervix, small pelvic area of cow.

### **Element 3**

Provide post-calving care.

#### **Performance criteria**

- 3.1 Cow and calf are managed and recorded after calving in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 3.2 Post-calving health problems are recognised, actions are taken promptly, and actions taken are reported in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 3.3 Calves to be reared are identified and handled in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 3.4 Calves to be culled are identified and handled in accordance with on-farm procedures.
- 3.5 Newly calved cows are managed in accordance with on-farm procedures.

---

#### **Please note**

Providers must be accredited by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

---

#### **Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation [standards@primaryito.ac.nz](mailto:standards@primaryito.ac.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.