

## Skin possums for possum fur recovery

**Level** 3

**Credits** 4

**Purpose** People credited with this unit standard are able to: skin possums, and describe skinning methods and the preparation for freezing and freezing process; dry possum skins; and remove possum skins from boards, air, brush, bundle, and press.

**Subfield** Agriculture

**Domain** General Agriculture

**Status** Registered

**Status date** 26 July 2004

**Date version published** 20 May 2008

**Planned review date** 31 December 2010

**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 but is not limited to the – Resource Management Act 1991, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Animal Welfare Act 1999, Biosecurity Act 1993, and their subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition  
*organisational procedures* – the verbal and written instructions to staff on procedures for skinning possum, and drying possum skins.

---

## Elements and performance criteria

### Element 1

Skin possums, and describe skinning methods and the preparation for freezing and freezing process.

Range sleeve skinning, open skinning.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Preparation of possum skins for skinning process, and skinning is carried out in a systematic manner without damage to the fur, or injury to self, and in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 1.2 Skinning process is appropriate for the way skin is to be dried, and is carried out in a manner which meets end product processing requirements.
- 1.3 Skinned carcasses are disposed of away from the kill site, and in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 1.4 Tailing is carried out in a manner which allows efficient air circulation for drying.
- 1.5 Preparation of possum skins for freezing and the freezing process are described in terms of the requirements for end product processing.  
  
Range folding, storage.
- 1.6 Skinning methods are compared in terms of fur skin processor requirements for quality.  
  
Range open skinned and dried on pin boards, sleeve skinning and peg boards.

### Element 2

Dry possum skins.

Range one of – natural drying, force drying.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Skin drying methods are described in terms of their advantages and disadvantages.
- 2.2 Skins are fleshed and cleaned of grease and particles of flesh in preparation for pegging, and in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 2.3 Skins are pegged on boards with size of skins consistent with size of boards, to achieve efficient drying, uniform width, without over stretching in width, and in a manner which requires minimal trimming.

- 2.4 Pointed pieces and flanks of pegged skins are minimally trimmed in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 2.5 Drying skins are maintained at a temperature to enable even and consistent drying of all skins in batch prior to current days catch being pegged.

### **Element 3**

Remove possum skins from boards, air, brush, bundle, and press.

#### **Performance criteria**

- 3.1 Skins are removed from skin-board frames, and tail is split in a systematic manner without damage to skins.
- 3.2 Skins are hung, aired, brushed, and stacked without causing damage to skin, and to ensure optimum quality of skin is maintained during transport, in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 3.3 Skins are prepared for bundling, bundled and pressed with a consistent number in each bundle to ensure optimum quality of skin is maintained.
- 3.4 Bundling and pressing are carried out following drying in a manner and time frame which avoids formation of mildew.
- 3.5 Skins are treated prior to storage, where appropriate, to ensure quality is maintained in accordance with organisational 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.