

Monitor health and provide husbandry for poultry

Level 2

Credits 4

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify poultry; handle poultry for routine activities; provide feed and water for a small flock of poultry of any species; describe indications of health and ill health in poultry, and appropriate responses; demonstrate knowledge of management of a species of poultry; carry out routine health procedures for poultry; and describe and maintain optimal environment for poultry, according to the relevant NAWAC code.

Subfield Animal Care and Handling

Domain Animal Care

Status Registered

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Entry information Open.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Standard setting body (SSB) Primary Industry Training Organisation

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0228

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

Special notes

- 1 For credit, evidence must be in accordance with the statutory and industry requirements contained in the following documents.
Relevant and current National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare and Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards, available at <http://www.maf.govt.nz>, under animal welfare.
Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available from NZVA, PO Box 11-212, Manners Street, Wellington (<http://www.vets.org.nz>) including the current versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*).
New Zealand Standard NZS 4304:2002 *Management of Healthcare Waste*.

Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.

- 2 Definition
Poultry refers to chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys.
- 3 Practical evidence requirements, especially those relating to feeding, watering and housing maintenance, must include evidence of ongoing animal care. For this unit standard, the candidate is expected to be involved in the care of some poultry over the course of at least two consecutive days.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Identify poultry.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Birds are identified in terms of their species and common breed.

Range geese and turkeys (species only);
chickens – at least three breeds;
ducks – at least two breeds.
- 1.2 At least two birds of any species are identified in terms of age, sex and production purpose.

Element 2

Handle poultry safely for routine activities.

Range at least two poultry species.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Birds are handled safely for routine procedures without injury to the handler or birds, and with minimum stress to the birds.

Range moving, penning, catching, restraining;
evidence for one bird or a small group is required.
- 2.2 Safe handling of birds with special requirements is described in terms of age and type of bird.

Range day-old, young, adult;
injured, unwell.

Element 3

Provide feed and water for a small flock of poultry of any species.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Storage of food is described in terms of maintaining optimum quality.
Range temperature, humidity, light, vermin control, contamination.
- 3.2 Feed type is selected according to birds' age, type, and condition.
- 3.3 Birds are fed and watered to ensure they are maintained in good health and body condition.
Range may include but is not limited to – pasture feeding, meal feeding, scrap feeding, daily water requirements.
- 3.4 Feeding and watering equipment is maintained in a clean and hygienic state.

Element 4

Describe indications of health and ill health in poultry, and appropriate responses.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Normal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs.
Range movement, physical appearance, posture, general demeanour, social interaction, appetite, approximate weight.
- 4.2 Abnormal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs, and appropriate action to be taken is identified.
Range movement, physical appearance, posture, general demeanour, social interaction, appetite, body condition.
- 4.3 Situations requiring isolation of birds are identified.
- 4.4 Situations requiring intervention by qualified personnel are identified.
Range intervention includes but is not limited to – farm visit, post-mortem, taking of lab samples.

Element 5

Demonstrate knowledge of management of a species of poultry.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Significant events in the life cycle of poultry are described in terms of time and/or duration.
- Range may include but is not limited to – breeding age, laying cycle, moulting, optimal time for slaughter, culling, longevity.
- 5.2 Management of young is described in terms of optimum development.
- Range may include but is not limited to – environment, feeding, hygiene, clutch size.
- 5.3 Common diseases of poultry are described in terms of their signs, effects on the individual and flock, and on production.
- Range infectious, nutritional, parasitic.

Element 6

Carry out routine health procedures for poultry.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 Normal biological data for one species is identified.
- Range respiration, temperature, approximate weight, change in egg weight.
- 6.2 The condition of a bird is assessed in terms of physical appearance.
- Range includes but is not limited to – condition of body, skin, eyes, beak, cloaca.
- 6.3 Routine health procedures are carried out to ensure birds' health and welfare.
- Range may include but is not limited to – parasite control, vaccination, crop gavage; evidence of any two different procedures for each of three birds, of any species, is required.

Element 7

Describe and maintain optimal environment for poultry, according to the relevant NAWAC code.

Range a small flock of a minimum of 10 birds, any species.

Performance criteria

7.1 Features of ideal housing design are described in terms of bird health and welfare, safety, and management.

Range may include but is not limited to –
housing type – barns, runs, movable housing, perches, nesting boxes;
features – size, materials, pest prevention and control, security, lighting, ventilation, temperature control.

7.2 Suitable litter is provided and changed to ensure the health and welfare of the birds.

7.3 Housing and equipment are maintained in a clean and hygienic state according to the requirements of the birds.

7.4 Features of a good outdoor environment are identified in terms of poultry health, welfare, and management.

7.5 Requirements for collection and disposal of poultry wastes are described according to current waste management standards.

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@primaryto.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.