

Title	Evaluate soil health status, and determine on-farm strategies for improvement		
Level	4	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: evaluate soil health status; and analyse the factors contributing to, and determine strategies to improve, the health status of soil on-farm.
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Classification	Agriculture > General Agriculture
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

1 References

- *Code of Practice for Nutrient Management*, New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturer's Research Association Incorporated (NZFMRA), 2007, available from www.fertresearch.org.nz.
- *Visual Soil Assessment*, Volume 1-4, ISBN 1-877221-92-9, available from www.landcareresearch.co.nz.

2 For the purposes of assessment

- Evidence of at least two soil types is required.
- Farm management objectives must be provided to the learner for assessment of outcome 3.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Evaluate soil health status.

Performance criteria

1.1 Evaluate soil health status in relation to soil characteristics.

Range soil characteristics include but are not limited to – physical structure, colour, insect and worm population, texture, porosity, mottling, fertility, bulk density.

Outcome 2

Analyse the factors contributing to the health status of soil on-farm.

Performance criteria

2.1 Analyse health status of soil to determine the effect of contributing factors.

Range farm practice factors may include but are not limited to – cultivation methods, crop rotation programme, stock grazing system, stock management, fertiliser and liming programme, machinery use;
natural and climatic factors may include but are not limited to – drought, flood, fire, wind, snow, frost, erosion, salination.

Outcome 3

Determine strategies to improve the health status of soil on-farm.

Performance criteria

3.1 Determine strategies consistent with farm management objectives.

3.2 Determine strategies that are environmentally sustainable.

Planned review date	31 December 2027
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 May 2008	31 December 2024
Review	2	25 August 2022	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0052
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.