

Title	Describe and manage pasture for horses, and care for horses in a paddock		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the behavioural characteristics of horses and handle horses with consideration for their behavioural characteristics; describe paddock management, pasture-related disease, and pasture management methods for grazing horses; care for horses in a paddock and describe group social behaviour; describe and assist with the maintenance of paddock facilities; and erect, test, dismantle, transport, and store temporary electric fences for horses.
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Classification	Equine > Equine Care
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition

Workplace procedures are the documented policies and practices for safety and procedures within a particular workplace, and are consistent with the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys (2018) available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11003-horses-and-donkeys-code-of-welfare>.
- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
 - evidence for the practical components of this unit standard must be supplied from the workplace.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the behavioural characteristics of horses and handle horses with consideration for their behavioural characteristics.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe the relationship between horses' behavioural characteristics, group hierarchy, and compatible groups of horses.

- 1.2 Handle horses and monitor health and wellbeing with consideration for horse communication and behavioural characteristics, body language, and in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range senses, natural behaviour, herd instincts.

Outcome 2

Describe paddock management, pasture-related disease, and pasture management methods for grazing horses.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe types of pasture and seasonal pasture growth in terms of nutritional value to the horse.

- 2.2 Describe types of health conditions in relation to feeding pasture diets.

Range eiphysitis, osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), metabolic disorders.

- 2.3 Describe situations when supplementary feeding is necessary for paddocked horses to maintain optimal body condition.

Range includes but is not limited to – time of year, number of horses in paddock; young stock, spelling horses, mares in foal, dry mares, wet mares, horse in training; evidence of five situations where supplementary feeding is required.

- 2.4 Describe methods for minimising the spread of parasites between paddocked horses.

Range includes but is not limited to – harrowing, picking up manure, stock rotation, paddock resting, faecal egg count; evidence of five is required.

- 2.5 Describe methods of grazing in terms of their advantages and disadvantages for grazing horses.

Range includes but is not limited to – set stocking, rotational grazing, break feeding, grouping of horses.

- 2.6 Describe methods to manage pasture to meet nutritional requirements of horses with consideration for seasonal pasture variations.

Range includes but is not limited to – removal of weeds and poisonous plants, stocking rate, fertiliser application, topping, re-pasturing, spraying, rotational grazing, cross grazing, break feeding.

Outcome 3

Care for horses in a paddock and describe group social behaviour.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Provide horses with supplementary feed in a paddock in accordance with class of horse, horses' natural feeding patterns and seasonal requirements in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range may include but is not limited to – provide extra feed container, placement of feed containers, all horses fed at same time, regular feeding time, creep feeding foals; evidence of four is required.
- 3.2 Describe and manage group social behaviour when managing groups of horses in a paddock in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range groups may include but are not limited to – sex, age, mares and foals; evidence of two is required; social behaviour may include but is not limited to – pecking order, behaviour of the horse; evidence of two is required.
- 3.3 Safely catch and remove individual and/or groups of horses from the paddock in a safe and controlled manner in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range may include but is not limited to – entry and exit through gates, to yard, use of lead horse; evidence of two is required.
- 3.4 Report routine care undertaken and identify and report injuries of paddocked horses in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range care may include but is not limited to – worming, stop crib; injuries may include but is not limited to – abrasions, swellings; evidence of two is required.

Outcome 4

Describe and assist with the maintenance of paddock facilities.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe types of water supply systems and maintenance.
- Range maintenance may include but is not limited to – inside scrubbed out, water replaced, repair of water pipe, joiners and ball cock; evidence of two water supply systems is required.

- 4.2 Describe paddock shelter facilities in terms of the types and features, and suitability for climatic conditions.
- Range natural, artificial.
- 4.3 Describe fence types and their suitability for horses in terms of advantages and disadvantages.
- Range includes but is not limited to – post and rail, post and No 8 wire, post and high tensile wire, post and wire with top rail timber, hedges, electric fencing.
- 4.4 Maintain gates and gate latches to ensure they are free of protrusions and work efficiently in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcome 5

Erect, test, dismantle, transport, and store temporary electric fences for horses.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Erect fences with consideration given to the health, safety, and welfare of people and animals in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range reel post, portable standards, poly tape, insulators.
- 5.2 Erect fences in accordance with land contours and manufacturer's specifications in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range reel post, portable standards, poly tape, insulators.
- 5.3 Energise and test fences using a digital voltmeter or other acceptable testers and identify and rectify any shorts in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range to at least 3000 volts.
- 5.4 Dismantle, transport, and store fences without damage or undue risk of damage to materials in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range reel post, portable standards, poly tape, insulators.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 1624.
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Planned review date	31 December 2025
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	28 May 2020	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0018

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

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary ITO standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.