

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 4) with strands in Arable Farming, Dairy Farming, Breeding Livestock Farming, and Non-Breeding Livestock Farming

**Qualification number:** 2212

**Date of review:** 22 May 2017

**Final decision on consistency of the qualification:** National Consistency is Confirmed

**Threshold:**

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates who have the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for the day to day operational management of a pastoral farming production system.

Graduates of the Dairy Farming Strand will also be able to manage milk harvesting and milk quality for a dairy farm; and implement dairy livestock health, breeding and feeding plans.

Graduates of the Breeding Livestock Strand will also be able to implement breeding livestock health, breeding feeding and production plans.

**Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence**

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Land Based Training	Sufficient

**Introduction**

This qualification is targeted at people who are experienced workers in the agriculture industry and are looking to move into, or are at, a management level position in an agricultural production enterprise. Its purpose is to provide the pastoral farming sector with individuals who have the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for the day to day operational management of a pastoral or arable farming production system. The qualification (and the approved programme of the education organisation) is designed to be delivered to people who are employed in the pastoral farming industry. The delivery is a collaborative effort between the student, the employer and the education organisation.

Eight graduates were reported in 2015 and twelve for 2016 by one education organisation only, in the Dairy Farming and Breeding Livestock Farming strands.

**Evidence**

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation.
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency.
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Evidence provided included:

- Portfolios of work and assessment samples demonstrating the range of student performance within a programme.
- Farm record/journal that students are required to keep for the duration of their programme.
- Feedback from a small sample of employers on the level of skills, knowledge and behaviour demonstrated by graduates of the qualification.

**How well does the evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?**

The evidence presented before, at, and after, the review meeting was sufficient to demonstrate that the graduates match the graduate outcomes. The evidence presented prior to and at the meeting was not well aligned with the graduate profile. Evidence provided after the meeting was much more clearly connected to the graduate profile and was sufficient to demonstrate that graduates meet the threshold.

In general, the quality of evidence presented for the review meeting was variable. Much of it was informal and developing a system to document informal evidence will strengthen the evidence for the future. The enhanced alignment of evidence with the graduate profile will strengthen the consistency case in the future.

**Recommendations to NZQA**

Although there were only 8 graduates reported in 2015 and 12 graduates for 2016, the Primary ITO reports that there are approximately 1500 students currently enrolled most of whom are scheduled to complete in 2017. It would be prudent to schedule a supplementary consistency review in 2018 or 2019 rather than wait until the next scheduled review in 2022.