About AgITO

AgITO has been developing qualifications and training for the agriculture industry since the Farm Cadet scheme began in the 1970’s and since then we have come a long way.

We are one of New Zealand’s largest industry training organisations, with over 12,000 people in training with us every year.

We work with employers and industry partners to identify, manage and promote training opportunities and to make sure our qualifications are up to date and deliver the skills the industry needs.

Our training is relevant for all roles on farm. AgITO qualifications and short courses cover all the skills and knowledge farmers need on farm from general safety, milk quality and effluent planning, right through to the highest levels of agribusiness management. NZQA approved, AgITO qualifications are nationally recognised as the industry standard.

We provide leadership to ensure the industry’s skills and training needs are met so it can contribute productively to New Zealand’s economy. This is achieved by developing the skills and knowledge of people and by creating career pathways that develop human capability.

Milk quality and mastitis management programmes

AgITO has developed specific courses to contribute to the improvement of milk quality. AgITO works with industry partners: AsureQuality, DairyNZ, Fonterra, QCONZ and PureMilk, to ensure the training programmes continue to meet industry needs. The courses incorporate industry tools developed by DairyNZ such as Healthy Udder, MilkSmart and SmartSAMM gap calculator.

Milk quality stage one

This course is aimed at the whole farm team particularly milk harvesters. Since it was launched in June 2007 more than 9,500 participants have attended this course. This course is also known as Licence to Milk by Fonterra suppliers.

Tutored and assessed on farm by AsureQuality and QCONZ specialists, the course improves understanding of milking processes and factors that influence milk quality.

The key learning outcomes for participants are:

- Apply effective milking and cupping techniques, and isolate milk unsuitable for collection.
- Understand the factors that impact on milk quality including bacteria, milk cooling and mastitis.
• Understand the different milk quality tests and penalties.
• Describe milking machine components and carry out best practice cleaning procedures.
• Understand impact of dairy cattle health on milk quality and maintain animal health records.

Milk quality stage two

This course is for supervisors, managers and decision makers. Since it was launched in January 2008 more than 2,100 participants have attended this course.

Tutored and assessed on farm by AsureQuality and QCONZ specialists, the course improves milking procedures and routines.

The key learning outcomes for participants are:
• Develop procedures for milking, maintenance and cleaning.
• Develop efficient milking routines for implementation by milking team including staff training.
• Understand requirements for the supply of milk and farm dairy regulations.
• Understand approaches to managing mastitis.
• Understand the factors that impact on milk quality and develop plans to improve milk quality.

Mastitis management

This course is aimed at supervisors and decision makers that can influence mastitis on farm. Since it was launched in January 2011, more than 170 participants have attended this course.

Tutored and assessed by PureMilk mastitis consultants, participants develop a mastitis management plan that is specific to their farm.

The key learning outcomes for participants are:
• Benchmark their farm against industry standards to identify potential areas for improvement and calculate the annual cost of mastitis for the farm.
• Understand that mastitis is a management issue.
• Understand the principles of mastitis control on a seasonal basis - dry period, colostrum period, lactation period.
• Assess their mastitis risk factors during lactation including cow, milking machine and staff.
• Develop a mastitis action plan for a whole season that provides a practical, workable process to reduce mastitis and improve farm profitability.