Modification history

| Release | Comments |
| --- | --- |
| Release 2 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 3.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| AHCBEK301 | Manage honey bee swarms |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to collect bee swarms and manage the swarming behaviour of bees.  The unit applies to beekeepers who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite unit | Nil |
| Unit sector | Beekeeping (BEK) |

| Elements | Performance criteria |
| --- | --- |
| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1.Prepare to catch a swarm of honey bees | 1.1 Obtain equipment required to collect a swarm of honey bees and confirm it is in good repair and serviceable for use  1.2 Check personal protective equipment (PPE) for serviceability and use and wear correctly  1.3 Identify work health and safety hazards associated with collecting bee swarms and take action to deal with them effectively  1.4 Observe site quarantine or other biosecurity protocols  1.5 Identify risks associated with collecting a swarm of honey bees and take actions to minimise likelihood and consequences of risks |
| 2.Collect a swarm of honey bees | 2.1 Place dry drawn frames in hive box for collected swarm to ensure it remains in new hive box  2.2 Catch swarm by shaking it into an empty box  2.3 Move boxed swarm to new location after confirming that whole swarm has been collected  2.4 Keep swarm separate from other hives to monitor hive health and disease-free status  2.5 Re-queen a swarm |
| 3.Manage swarming behaviour in a honey bee colony | 3.1 Monitor honey bee colony for signs that swarming may occur  3.2 Consider a range of control options if swarming appears likely to occur, and select and implement the best option  3.3 Monitor colony to ensure that swarming behaviour has been controlled and if necessary, implement further control options |

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| Foundation Skills  This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria. | |
| Skills | Description |
| Reading | * Reads and interprets biosecurity protocols and codes of practice |
| Get the work done | * Plans and implements routine tasks and workload deciding on the sequencing and timing of honey bee swarm management and collection |

| Unit mapping information | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| AHCBEK301 Manage honey bee swarms | AHCBEK301A Manage honey bee swarms | Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages  Minor changes to Performance Criteria for clarity | Equivalent unit |

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| Links | Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet - https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72 |

| Assessment requirements | |
| --- | --- |
| AHCBEK301 | Manage honey bee swarms |
| Performance evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that on at least one occasion the individual has demonstrated that they have managed a honey bee swarm including:   * identified the hazards and risks and selected and worn appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) * identified and prepared equipment required for swarm collection * collected a swarm of honey bees using appropriate equipment and techniques while following biosecurity requirements * interpreted behaviour and handling of bees and applied appropriate management strategies * implemented a range of control options to manage swarming behaviour in honey bees. | |

| Knowledge evidence |
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| An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:   * principles and practices of managing swarms * causes and timing of honey bees swarm activity * why swarms are collected * signs of colony swarming activity * management techniques that can be used to manage a colony that is showing signs it is about to swarm * biosecurity protocols * diseases that occur in honey bees * signs of disease other infestations * procedures to prevent cross contamination within apiary * when and how to requeen a swarm that has been collected. |

| Assessment conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in an active aviary with live bees or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * apiary with live bee swarm or hive preparing to swarm * safety equipment for handling bees * tools and equipment appropriate for managing swarms   Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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