

**Modification history**

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version X.0.
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0.

AHCBAC401	Manage pastures for livestock production
<b>Application</b>	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess pastures and land use for suitability for pasture and grazing for the development and implementation of a pasture management program for livestock production.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who take responsibility for 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.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
<b>Prerequisite Unit</b>	Nil
<b>Unit Sector</b>	Broad Acre Cropping (BAC)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Assess pasture and property for livestock production	1.1 Assess pasture types on property and seasonal production potential and limitations 1.2 Confirm or modify livestock production and enterprise objectives to develop production targets achievable for pasture type 1.3 Assess grazing and rest period requirements of pasture type 1.4 Assess nutrient and soil biological requirements for pastures to determine fertiliser and amelioration program
2. Develop a pasture management program	2.1 Determine water demand and availability for each soil type and pasture species 2.2 Identify and plan grazing and fodder conservation strategies 2.3 Determine infrastructure and resources required to support grazing management 2.4 Identify and account for budgetary constraints according to financial plan 2.5 Document pasture management program
3. Implement pasture management program	3.1 Identify health and safety hazards, assess risk and implement controls according to workplace procedures 3.2 Monitor pasture capacity according to planned use 3.3 Implement strategic grazing for weed control to maintain ground cover and soil condition 3.4 Determine and apply fertiliser and soil amelioration according to fertiliser and amelioration program 3.5 Monitor soil moisture and implement strategies to manage water requirement according to workplace conditions 3.6 Develop and implement procedures to minimise waste, soil degradation and environmental impact

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
4. Monitor pasture growth and fodder production	4.1 Determine longer term trends in weed, pest and disease incidence and implement changes to control measures 4.2 Monitor soil structure and erosion risk and consider changes to cultural practices, grazing management and drainage to mitigate risk 4.3 Check and maintain water resources and drainage systems according to workplace conditions 4.4 Monitor grazing management to ensure sustainable pasture and optimal livestock production levels 4.5 Identify feed availability and manage according to workplace procedures 4.6 Monitor pasture maturity and conduct seed harvesting according to marketing and production targets
5. Review production level	5.1 Monitor pasture yields and assess against forecast production levels 5.2 Evaluate grazing programs for sustainability of land and pasture resource, and livestock profitability 5.3 Collect and maintain records of production

Foundation Skills	
<i>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.</i>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret and analyse plans and strategies and consolidates information into actions for pasture and livestock management</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain physical and financial records of production to assist in reviewing production targets</li> <li>Develop procedures for specific audiences using clear and detailed language in order to convey explicit information, requirements and recommendations for livestock and pasture management</li> </ul>
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use formula and numerical information to calculate financial data and interpret basic statistical and analytical data</li> <li>Apply basic financial modelling skills to identify, analyse and evaluate budgetary information, time durations and resource allocations</li> </ul>

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCBC401 Manage pastures for livestock production Release 2	AHCBC401 Manage pastures for livestock production Release 1	Changes to Application. Changes to sequencing and editing of Performance Criteria, including splitting Element 1 into 2. Added Foundation Skills. Updated Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions	Equivalent

<b>Links</b>	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: <a href="https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72">https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72</a>
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for AHCBC401 Manage pastures for livestock production
<b>Performance Evidence</b>	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has on at least one occasion managed a broadacre pasture for livestock production and has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determined soil quality and land use capability</li> <li>• determined fertiliser, ameliorants and biological inputs required to support production using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pasture type</li> <li>• soil analysis</li> <li>• production targets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• set objectives and milestones for pasture production</li> <li>• calculated costs of production</li> <li>• determined pasture water requirements using each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pasture species demand</li> <li>• local rainfall</li> <li>• water reserves and availability</li> <li>• evapo-transpiration data</li> <li>• irrigation potential</li> </ul> </li> <li>• assessed grazing and rest periods for pasture types after assessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pasture quality</li> <li>• quantity</li> <li>• coverage and persistence</li> </ul> </li> <li>• monitored the productivity and feed intake of grazing livestock</li> <li>• developed grazing strategies and planned infrastructure required</li> <li>• assessed the impact of grazing on pasture productivity and resilience</li> <li>• identified pasture species and estimated dry matter production of pasture</li> <li>• assessed options to control weed infestation</li> <li>• identified strategies for pest and disease control</li> <li>• established production targets for each pasture type on property</li> <li>• developed a pasture management program according to production targets and enterprise objectives</li> <li>• implemented grazing program to reduce or eradicate areas of weed infestation</li> <li>• monitored soil health and grazing management to ensure sustainable pasture and optimal livestock production levels</li> <li>• monitored pasture yields and evaluated against forecast production levels</li> <li>• used technology to improve efficiency</li> <li>• maintained records for analysis of pasture and livestock production, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• physical</li> <li>• financial</li> </ul> </li> <li>• implemented workplace health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures.</li> </ul>	
<b>Knowledge Evidence</b>	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• livestock production systems and property requirements</li> <li>• land and soil conditions and assessment</li> <li>• pasture species and their growing requirements, including water</li> <li>• pasture grazing strategies</li> <li>• basic budgeting and the cost of production, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic financial analysis</li> <li>• estimating costs</li> <li>• importance of financial records</li> </ul> </li> <li>• soil nutrient and fertility, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interpretation of soil analysis reports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Knowledge Evidence**

- pasture nutrient requirements
- impact of soil biological processes
- environmental management strategies in land use and the impact of practices, including:
  - soil moisture and erosion control
  - chemical and waste contamination
  - weed and pasture impact on adjoining properties
- weed control strategies including
  - infestation patterns for different types of weed
  - grazing methods used to control species
  - impact of weeds on productivity and livestock health
- role of precision agriculture and its effect on pasture growth, yield and soil attributes, including:
  - self-drive equipment
  - global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)
  - laser technologies
  - controlled traffic farming (CTF) principles and impact
  - use of remote piloted systems
- water management for pastures, including:
  - drainage systems and maintenance
  - soil moisture retention strategies
  - irrigation systems for broadacre farms and pastures
- workplace health and safety, legislative requirements and enterprise policies and procedures, including:
  - safe handling
  - chemical and hazardous substances
  - fire safety
  - personal protection
- codes of practice, legislation and regulations relating to farm production, including:
  - environmental
  - animal welfare and ethics
  - health and safety.

**Assessment Conditions**

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - skills must be demonstrated on broadacre farm with land suitable for pasture and livestock production or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - livestock
  - use of tools, equipment and machinery
  - use of personal protective equipment
  - use of chemicals and consumables for fertilising and treating pasture
- specifications:
  - use of workplace policies, procedures and processes
  - use of manufacturer's operating instructions for tools, equipment and machinery
  - access to safety data sheets
  - use of workplace production plans, specifications and financial budgets
  - access to legislation and codes of practice relevant to livestock production.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

**Links**

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