

Pig & Poultry Farming Project

Pork Production Updates for Validation Phase

April 2022

Summary of Feedback and Key Changes

Thank you to the stakeholders that provided feedback on the drafts that were made available from 18 February until 22 March 2022 under the 'Drafts Available' stage. During this time, feedback was collected via the online feedback hub, webinars, phone calls and emails. The qualifications, skill sets and units were drafted with guidance from Subject Matter Experts, made up of workplace experts and industry.

Pork Sector

Certificate III in Pork Production

- *AHCLSK310 Implement feeding plans for intensive production* has been added to Elective Group A Pork Production.
- Units selected from Group B Livestock Husbandry has increased from three to at least five units
- Units selected outside the qualification has reduced from two to one.

Skill Sets

- Retitled the Pig Health Supervisor Skill Set to Livestock Health and Welfare Supervisor Skill Set to reflect more accurately the skill set outcome (no changes made to the skill set requirements).
- Four units have had their codes updated within the Pork Industry Stockperson Skill Set requirements, no other changes made.
- *AHCSS0005 Pork Industry Euthanasia Skill* is now proposed for deletion.

Units of Competency

- Minor changes have been made in some units to increase clarity in the Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and to reduce duplication in the Knowledge Evidence.
- *AHCPRK306 Monitor and maintain outdoor pig production* is still proposed for deletion.

Animal ethics concerns

The revised pork (AHCPRK) units state the Performance Evidence (PE) be assessed in a pork production site that includes live pigs. Some units require the administering of treatments to live pigs and the removal/isolation of dead, non-viable or ill pigs. Feedback has been received that these requirements may create Animal Ethics Committee issues and may also limit access to these units for some RTOs/learners. The subject matter expert working group (SMEWG), that includes representatives from industry and RTOs, carefully considered this feedback (including suggestions to allow replica animals and simulated workplaces). The outcome of this discussion by the SMEWG was to advise the developer to not change these requirements, citing the reasons below:

- The PE in the revised and new AHCPRK units have been designed with expert advice from representatives of the Pork Production industry. The standards have

been designed to ensure graduates of these units are competent to work safely and productively in their industry.

- It is envisaged and encouraged that Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) establish cooperative arrangements with Pork Farmers to train and assess their workers to the standards required by industry. For example, three of the six RTOs listed on Training.gov.au that have AHC30416 Certificate III in Pork Production on scope, successfully deliver and assess AHCPRK units on pork farms.
- Animal Ethics Committee approvals are not required if the units are trained and assessed in farming workplaces, further encouraging cooperative arrangements between RTOs and employers and ensuring students learn in a real environment.
- Treatments provided to pigs is highly controlled by enterprise procedures, Farm Treatment Plans, and Approved Medication Lists, and will only be provided as part of routine animal husbandry practices.
- In addition to the skill development required by workers in this industry, it is in the best interests of biosecurity, animal welfare, worker safety and public health that live animals are used in the training and assessment of these units. To provide some further clarity on these points, the SMEWG stressed the following:
 - Handling and sometimes restraining animals, especially larger ones, can only really be trained with live animals that have a mind of their own. If taught on an inanimate replica (that currently do not exist), essential animal handling knowledge and skills are not developed. This results in people who think they are competent when they are not and contributes to injuries to workers and animals when these people have to handle live animals.
 - The handling, movement and disposal of dead or sick pigs brings with it lots of risks (health and safety related to manual handling due to the animal's weight, having to do a team lift, possible bite from a sick pig, infection control for workers, spread of pathogens to other pigs on site, and within the general community). Pork production enterprises have strict codes and procedures that are followed for these activities, specialised equipment and other resources manage these risks. For example – materials handling equipment, disposable PPE, showers for workers, foot baths to sanitise and disinfect footwear, equipment sterilisation facilities, and controlled movement routes for people, animals, feed, water and equipment required for pork husbandry tasks. Visitors to sites (trainers and assessors) are screened for their risks, trained in site procedures and know how to maintain safety and biosecurity.
 - If the AHCPRK units are assessed in an RTO site that does not have similar controls in place, the risk of the learner bringing pathogens into a pork production farm increase. In addition, a person that has had contact with pigs or poultry on another site (for example, at an RTO), is required by the pork industry to be quarantined before they can return to their pork production worksite. The quarantine period is a minimum of 24 hours but may be longer on some farms. This obviously creates issues for pork production farms releasing their workers for training with animals at an RTO.

To view the Validation drafts and provide your comment, or to register for a validation webinar, visit the Pig & Poultry project page on the Skills Impact website at <https://www.skillsimpact.com.au/agriculture/training-package-projects/pig-and-poultry-farming-project/>. Please note that this validation phase of the project runs from 3 to 20 May 2022.