



Australian Government

AHCLSK329 Implement procedures for calving

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release Number	TP Version	Comments
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to monitor cows at calving and provide the support required.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, work health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity legislation and codes of practice and sustainability practices.

This unit applies to workers on cattle farms who are responsible for overseeing calving. These individuals are expected to refer any high risk issues or problems for veterinary advice.

This unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They complete routine activities and work in a range of known contexts.

All units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Livestock (LSK)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Prepare for calving	1.1 Assess and monitor condition and health status of cow prior to calving 1.2 Check calving equipment, resources and materials and prepare for

Element	Performance criteria
	<p>use</p> <p>1.3 Graze cows at risk of calving difficulty (especially first calf heifers) in an area where intervention can be carried out with as little disruption as possible</p> <p>1.4 Identify hazards in assisting with calving and follow safe work practices</p> <p>1.5 Check mating records and confirm anticipated calving date</p>
2. Observe the calving	<p>2.1 Monitor cows for signs of approaching parturition and throughout calving</p> <p>2.2 Note signs of calf malpresentation or dystocia from the rate of progress in giving birth and the initial orientation of the feet and head</p>
3. Support calving	<p>3.1 Handle calving cows calmly and put in a secure environment</p> <p>3.2 Implement hygiene procedures to ensure that any calving equipment entering the birth canal is clean</p> <p>3.3 Estimate the orientation and size of the foetus relative to the pelvis through manual palpation</p> <p>3.4 Check the possibility of twins and adjust position of the lead foetus where required</p> <p>3.5 Manipulate a malpresentation physically into the correct position where required</p> <p>3.6 Apply calving ropes/chains are placed on the calf above the front fetlocks and appropriate calf pulling equipment in the case of dystocia, without causing undue harm to the female</p> <p>3.7 Bring in specialist support in if normal assistance procedures are not adequate to assist the calving</p> <p>3.8 Apply enterprise animal welfare policies to livestock handling procedures</p>
4. Carry out monitoring after calf has been born	<p>4.1 Allow cow to rest and encourage cow to lick the calf as an initial bonding</p> <p>4.2 Check calves that have been assisted for clear airways</p> <p>4.3 Leave the placenta for the cow to ingest after calving</p> <p>4.4 Treat and record cows with retained placentas or other abnormalities</p> <p>4.5 Maintain the calving environment, facilities and equipment in a safe, hygienic and operational state and report or fix faults</p> <p>4.6 Keep record of calving</p>

Foundation Skills

Foundation Skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

This unit is equivalent to AHCLSK329A Implement procedures for calving

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>