



**Australian Government**

# **AHCBAC311 Conserve forage**

**Release: 1**

## AHCBAC311 Conserve forage

### Modification History

| Release   | Comments                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Release 1 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 7.0. |

### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare paddocks and storage facilities for forage conservation. It includes processing and harvesting forage crops and placing them into storage. The process also includes managing risks associated with forage conservation activities.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for own work including limited responsibility for the work of others. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources and complete routine activities.

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

### Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

### Unit Sector

Broad Acre Cropping (BAC)

### Elements and Performance Criteria

| 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. Prepare for forage conservation               | 1.1 Confirm forage conservation options from production plan<br>1.2 Identify risk factors for spoilage in forage conservation<br>1.3 Confirm paddock conditions for suitable forage production<br>1.4 Prepare machinery and equipment or technology for forage production according to production plans and biosecurity procedures |

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                  | 1.5 Ensure clear access to paddocks for harvesting and transport machinery<br>1.6 Prepare storage facility for selected forage conservation method<br>1.7 Identify work health and safety hazards, assess risks and implement controls according to workplace health and safety policies, including selection of personal protective equipment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2. Prepare paddocks for forage conservation      | 2.1 Close paddock to stock access according to production plan<br>2.2 Report growth stage of crop for harvest to supervisor<br>2.3 Monitor paddock for pest control and biosecurity for threats to forage bulk and quality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3. Make forage                                   | 3.1 Implement work health and safety procedures for forage conservation<br>3.2 Monitor weather conditions affecting forage harvest<br>3.3 Identify and assess moisture content of forage material<br>3.4 Mow, condition, tedder and rake swaths according to weather conditions and forage drying targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4. Harvest and store forage                      | 4.1 Select and use forage harvest equipment efficiently according to production plan<br>4.2 Monitor harvest equipment for mechanical performance and resolve, repair or report wear or damage according to workplace procedures<br>4.3 Prepare forage for storage according to forage storage and production plan<br>4.4 Load and transport forage safely to forage storage site according to storage plan<br>4.5 Place forage into storage facility to minimise spoilage and potential fire risk<br>4.6 Collect samples and perform quality tests of stored forage according to workplace procedures |
| 5. Complete operations                           | 5.1 Complete records according to workplace procedures<br>5.2 Dispose of waste and debris according to workplace and environmental procedures<br>5.3 Clean and maintain machinery and ancillary equipment according                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                     |
|                                                  | to manufacturer instructions<br>5.4 Inspect stored forage facilities for environmental impact and report to supervisor according to workplace and environmental procedures |

## 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.*

| Skill              | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reading            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret plans and procedures for forage crop conservation.</li> <li>Interpret manufacturer specifications, work and maintenance programs, and safety data sheets (SDS) relevant to forage crop conservation</li> </ul> |
| Oral Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting to supervisor on crop growth stages</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Numeracy           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use and recognise the numerical relationships for adjustments and settings on harvesting and handling equipment and their effective operation</li> </ul>                                                                 |

## Unit Mapping Information

| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Equivalence status |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| AHCBAC311<br>Conserve forage   | AHCBAC301<br>Conserve forage    | Edited Application for clarity<br><br>Split Element 3 to create new Element for clarity<br><br>Consolidated and re-sequenced Performance Criteria for clarity<br><br>Added requirement to sample and test stored | Not equivalent     |

| Code and title<br>current version | Code and title<br>previous version | Comments                                                                                                                                                                              | Equivalence status |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                   |                                    | forage PC 4.6<br>Foundation Skills refined<br>Performance Evidence and<br>Knowledge Evidence<br>clarified and terminology<br>updated<br>Amended structure of<br>Assessment Conditions |                    |

## Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -  
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

## Assessment Requirements for AHCBAC311 Conserve forage

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### Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has prepared at least two of the following forms of forage:

- hay
- wilted silage (baleage or haylage)
- bulk chopped silage
- green chop

There must also be evidence that the individual has:

- interpreted and implemented a forage conservation production plan
- prepared paddocks for forage conservation
- prepared forage for harvest, prepared storage facilities and stored forage according to production plan
- maintained records according to workplace procedures
- prepared, operated and maintained forage preparation and harvesting equipment or technology
- assessed workplace health and safety risks and implemented controls according to workplace health and safety policies
- selected and used personal protective equipment
- harvested forage efficiently according to production plan
- followed workplace biosecurity and environmental policies and procedures
- completed records.

### Knowledge Evidence

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:

- types of forage systems and methods including:
  - hay, wilted silage (baleage haylage), bulk chopped silage, green chop

- factors affecting the quality of forage
- dry matter content and testing
- hygiene and biosecurity requirements
- manufacturer specifications
- forage production equipment and machinery, including:
  - range and functions of silage and haymaking machinery and equipment
  - operation and safety
  - preparation for use
  - cleaning and biosecurity
  - licensing requirements on public land
- common weeds, pests and diseases associated with crops and pastures
- principles of precision agriculture and the role of technology in improving efficiencies, including:
  - self-drive, auto steer, global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and laser technologies
  - controlled traffic farming (CTF) principles and impacts
  - variable rate technology (VRT)
- workplace health and safety risks associated with conservation of forage, including:
  - types and application of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - impact of moisture on combustion and fires in hay stacks
  - fire/explosion from dust in enclosed spaces
  - potential contact with overhead power lines
  - personal exposure to noise and dust and the need for PPE
  - animal health factors
  - working at heights and in confined spaces with storage bins
- potential risks of forage conservation on the environment
- record keeping systems for forage conservation.

## 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 a broadacre farm with paddocks of forage or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - forage plants ready for preparation and harvesting
  - tools, equipment or technology and machinery
  - personal protective equipment (PPE)
- relationships:
  - supervisor

- specifications:
  - workplace policies, procedures, processes for forage conservation
  - manufacturer operating instructions for tools, machinery and equipment or technology
  - • use of forage specifications
- timeframes:
  - within a time period required to preserve forage quality.

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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