



Australian Government

AHCBEK301 Manage honey bee swarms

Release: 2

AHCBEK301 Manage honey bee swarms

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.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to collect and establish bee swarms, determine the health of bee swarm and manage swarming behaviour in hives according to quarantine and biosecurity procedures.

The unit applies to beekeepers who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources and to solve problems.

State and territory regulations and local government by-laws apply in some jurisdictions to beehive ownership and biosecurity.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Beekeeping (BEK)

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 to catch a swarm of honey bees	1.1 Assess swarm location, size and condition and determine the options for dealing with the swarm 1.2 Determine equipment and resources required if catching the swarm is a viable and safe option

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.3 Select equipment and ensure serviceable for collecting swarms 1.4 Identify health and safety in the workplace hazards and risks and apply appropriate controls associated with collecting a swarm 1.5 Select, ensure serviceability, fit and use personal protective equipment 1.6 Conduct work according to quarantine regulations and biosecurity codes of practice
2. Collect a swarm of honey bees	2.1 Place foundation frames in hive box to encourage collected swarm to remain according to biosecurity code of practice 2.2 Catch swarm by shaking or placing into an empty box 2.3 Move boxed swarm to new location after confirming that entire swarm has been collected 2.4 Quarantine swarm from apiary to monitor hive health according to biosecurity procedures 2.5 Monitor egg laying performance of queen to determine if re-queening is required according to workplace procedures
3. Manage swarming behaviour in a honey bee colony	3.1 Monitor honey bee colony for signs that swarming may occur 3.2 Consider options for controlling swarming behaviour and select and implement the best option 3.3 Monitor colony to ensure that swarming behaviour has been managed and assess further management options
4. Update and maintain apiary records	4.1 Update apiary records for increased hive numbers according to workplace procedures 4.2 Notify authorities of amended hive numbers according to legislative and regulatory requirements

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
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Skill	Description
Reading	Interprets biosecurity protocols and codes of practice
Writing	Completes workplace documentation using appropriate terminology and in required format
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 Release 2	AHCBEK301 Manage honey bee swarms Release 1	Minor changes to Performance Criteria for clarity Updated Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence	Equivalent unit

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 AHCBEK301 Manage honey bee swarms

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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 on at least one occasion the individual has demonstrated that they have managed a honey bee swarm including:

- assessed swarm for condition and viable and safe options for collection, and determined resources and equipment required
- identified the hazards and risks and selected, fitted and used appropriate personal protective equipment
- identified and prepared equipment required for swarm collection
- interpreted behaviour and handling of bees and applied appropriate management strategies
- collected a swarm of honey bees using appropriate equipment and techniques while following quarantine and biosecurity requirements
- assessed captured swarm for health and need for re-queening
- selected and implemented control options to manage swarming behaviour in honey bees
- updated and maintained workplace and statutory 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:

- principles and practices of managing swarms, including:
 - causes and timing of honey bees swarm activity
 - why swarms are collected including environmental and social impacts
 - signs of colony swarming activity
 - management techniques that can be used to manage a colony showing signs of potential swarm activity
 - setting up swarm catch boxes to capture swarming bees

- biosecurity considerations, including:
 - pests and diseases that occur in honey bees
 - signs of pests and diseases in swarms
 - quarantine procedures to prevent cross contamination of apiaries
 - sampling procedures for pests and disease for confirmation
- signs and purpose for re-queening collected swarms
- swarm collecting and boxing techniques, including:
 - tools and equipment used for capturing swarms
 - hive components
- hazards and risks when collecting swarms and control strategies, including:
 - safety aspects of swarm collection and location
 - personal protective clothing
 - public safety
- workplace and statutory apiary records and notifications.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an active apiary
 - access to bee swarm
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live bees 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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