



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for AHCCFP401 Increase soil organic carbon using land management practices

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 4.0.

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 increased carbon in soil for a designated plot of land, including:

- identified the benefits and co-benefits of increasing carbon in soil
- planned and implemented a project to increase soil organic matter in soil.

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:

- how land use and management practices impact on soil health
- physical, chemical and biological properties of healthy soil
- opportunities presented by degraded soil (or soil that has less soil carbon than normally expected under standard, normal or common land management practices for the local area)
- land management practices that have the potential to increase soil health and agricultural productivity, dependent on local climate and soil type, including:
 - no till or conservation tillage and controlled traffic
 - cover crops
 - pasture cropping
 - crop rotation (depending on rotation and crop)
 - perennial-based systems
 - integrated pest management and weed management
 - managed movement of water
- co-benefits of increased carbon in soil, including:

- environmental benefits: improved biodiversity above and below ground, improved air, water and soil quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved movement of water across landscape, reduced salinity/erosion/acidification/compaction, increased resilience to drought, and increased land versatility
- social benefits: including increased resilience to drought, more stable and diverse income, healthier people and communities, and improved succession planning
- economic benefits: including potential for diversified income streams, increased farm productivity, access to finance, increased land versatility, new skills and career development, and less income spent on supplements and fertilisers.
- reasons for measuring soil organic carbon, including as a measure of soil health and as an estimate of stocks of soil organic carbon for carbon trading
- informal methods for measuring soil carbon, including percentage tests across a paddock
- using baseline measurements to estimate potential additional soil carbon
- approved methods for soil-based carbon farming projects
- soil quality calculators at soilquality.org.au.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - designated plot of land that has potential for increasing soil organic carbon
 - equipment and resources relevant to method
 - access to information about soil land management methods and practices.

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

Links

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