



Australian Government

AHCLSK371 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures

Release: 1

AHCLSK371 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Release 11.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct the most efficient and humane mulesing procedure in circumstances where all alternative methods of breech flystrike prevention have been evaluated and mulesing is considered the most appropriate of these for the long-term welfare of the sheep.

The unit applies to individuals who plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work.

This unit applies to sheep farmers and contractors in the livestock industry who normally operate under limited supervision.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace, and animal welfare legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines, and sustainability and biosecurity practices.

In addition to legal responsibilities, all units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. However, individuals should confirm the regulatory requirements that apply in their relevant state or territory before undertaking this unit.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Livestock (LSK)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
----------	----------------------

Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Conduct pre-mulesing evaluations	1.1 Identify and comply with relevant legislation, regulations and animal welfare practices 1.2 Identify industry standards and guidelines 1.3 Seek expert advice and discuss alternative strategies to manage flystrike susceptibility prior to undertaking mulesing procedures 1.4 Confirm workplace requirements for use of mulesing 1.5 Conduct pre-operative evaluation of sheep 1.6 Identify hazards and risks and implement safe working practices to manage risks 1.7 Select, fit, use and maintain personal protective equipment (PPE) applicable to the task
2. Prepare for mulesing operations	2.1 Identify and order supplies and equipment 2.2 Monitor weather conditions to determine optimal conditions for operation and recovery of sheep from the procedure 2.3 Select suitable time of day for operation to minimise the separation time of lambs and ewes 2.4 Engage skilled workers to perform mulesing 2.5 Select appropriate yards, paddocks and pastures for each mob and each day to allow adequate time for mothering-up of lambs after separation from the ewes 2.6 Muster, move and handle sheep using good stock handling techniques and according to workplace animal welfare practices 2.7 Allow lambs to settle and cool after yarding
3. Select, maintain and use appropriate equipment	3.1 Maintain equipment in clean, hygienic and good working order to reduce the risk of infection and cross-infection in sheep 3.2 Maintain and operate mulesing cradles in good working condition to ensure minimal risk to the operator or lamb, especially when loading and unloading 3.3 Set, grind and sharpen mulesing shears according to workplace procedures 3.4 Disinfect mulesing shears after sharpening, before use and between each animal 3.5 Prepare wash-down, soaking and disinfecting containers for use 3.6 Prepare, test and check chemical application equipment 3.7 Clean, disinfect and store equipment at the end of operation

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	according to workplace procedures
4. Conduct mulesing procedures	4.1 Conduct all procedures according to workplace health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity requirements 4.2 Maintain facility, operator hands, handling and equipment hygiene throughout the operation 4.3 Handle lambs using good stock handling techniques and use restraints such as cradles 4.4 Perform mulesing procedure according to model code of practice and industry standards 4.5 Apply pain relief to the wound immediately after the procedure according to industry standards and legislative requirements, and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions 4.6 Apply insecticide dressing to the surrounding intact wool-bearing skin immediately after the procedure according to industry standards and SDS instructions 4.7 Monitor and evaluate wound symmetry, size and position, and breaks in selvage 4.8 Remove lambs from cradles so they land gently on all four feet
5. Conduct post-mulesing management procedures	5.1 Allow lambs, following release, to mother-up to ewes 5.2 Provide immediate treatment for lambs that are abandoned or unable to stand or walk 5.3 Monitor lambs for abnormal signs such as infection and septicaemia 5.4 Complete mulesing documentation and records according to workplace procedures 5.5 Identify and report unserviceable equipment and PPE according to workplace 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	Identify and interpret workplace documentation to identify relevant and key information for mulesing sheep
Writing	Use clear language, accurate industry terminology and logical structure to complete mulesing documentation and records
Oral communication	- Use clear language to report malfunctions, faults, wear or damage to tools and equipment - Respond to questions and clarify information

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current release	Code and title previous release	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCLSK371 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures	AHCLSK334 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures	Minor changes to application Minor changes to elements and performance criteria Foundation skills added Assessment requirements updated	Equivalent

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 AHCLSK371 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Release 11.0.

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 planned, prepared and conducted mulesing procedures on at least one occasion, and has:

- applied relevant workplace health and safety and environment and biosecurity legislation, regulations and workplace procedures
- recognised and reported workplace health and safety hazards and used safe work practices
- applied relevant animal welfare practices
- assessed alternative strategies and confirmed key indicators for the use of mulesing
- identified optimal conditions for carrying out mulesing procedures
- conducted pre-operative evaluation of lambs submitted for mulesing procedures and risk assessment in consultation with sheep manager
- prepared appropriate sites, facilities and equipment in line with infection control, work health and safety and animal welfare standards including pain management according to industry standards and legislative requirements
- handled livestock using good stock handling techniques
- carried out mulesing operations according to industry recognised best practice mulesing techniques and hygiene standards
- followed appropriate procedures and label directions to provide pain relief and insecticide dressing as required
- monitored animal behaviour post-mulesing for health and wellbeing, including the ability to recognise signs of post-mulesing complications
- communicated post-mulesing management requirements to sheep manager
- documented and maintained mulesing records.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- workplace requirements applicable to health and safety in the workplace for planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures, including appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- environment and biosecurity legislation and regulations and workplace practices relevant to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
- principles and practices for planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures, including:
 - animal welfare practices relevant to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - relevant codes of practice and industry standards for mulesing
 - reasons and requirements for mulesing in sheep
 - body condition scoring (BCS), breech wrinkle scoring (BRWR) and breech cover scoring (BCOV) in lambs and adult sheep
 - methods and strategies of flystrike control
 - effects of weather, environmental, facility, flock, individual animal and human factors on mulesing operations
 - use and maintenance of materials and equipment for mulesing
 - principles and maintenance of hygiene in mulesing operations
 - methods and techniques for handling and restraint of adult sheep and lambs
 - use of pain relief and insecticide treatment in mulesing procedures
 - anatomy and external features of sheep
 - health and animal welfare implications of post-mulesing complications in sheep
 - signs of ill health and related management strategies in sheep
 - use of and regulatory considerations for the use of disinfectants
 - good stock handling techniques
 - relevant care, husbandry and management strategies for sheep flocks
 - relevant legislation, regulations and codes of practice, including veterinary practitioner and surgeons Acts, stock diseases and waste disposal, agricultural and veterinary chemical use.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - work instructions and workplace procedures applicable to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - equipment and materials applicable to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - PPE applicable to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures

- lambs requiring mulesing
- ewes
- specifications:
 - workplace requirements applicable to health and safety in the workplace for planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - environment and biosecurity legislation and regulations and workplace practices applicable to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - legislation, regulations, standards, guidelines and procedures for animal welfare applicable to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - industry standards, regulations, legislation and codes of practice and procedures for planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
 - legislation, regulations and codes of practice, including veterinary practitioner and surgeons Acts relevant to planning, preparing and conducting mulesing procedures
- relationships:
 - skilled workers
- time frames:
 - according to job requirements.

Assessment of this unit must be conducted on live animals.

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>