



Australian Government

AHCORG409 Manage biodynamic production

Release: 1

AHCORG409 Manage biodynamic production

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 9.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage a farming system according to the principles, practices and standards for organic and biodynamic agricultural production.

The unit applies to individuals and farmers who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others within known parameters, and use discretion and judgment in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Organic Production (ORG)

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 a plan for a biodynamic farming enterprise	1.1 Identify health, safety and environmental hazards, assess risk and develop controls according to workplace procedures 1.2 Identify requirements for biodynamic certification 1.3 Develop goals and plan for a biodynamic enterprise 1.4 Develop marketing plans for biodynamic produce 1.5 Investigate and implement trials for biodynamic agriculture and

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	products 1.6 Record outcomes of trials and incorporate into business plans 1.7 Develop and implement biodynamic production plan according to biodynamic principles and organic farming strategies
2. Make and apply biodynamic field spray preparations	2.1 Formulate, manufacture and store biodynamic field spray preparations 2.2 Agitate preparations to ensure homogeneity 2.3 Select and prepare equipment for application of biodynamic preparation 2.4 Calibrate and adjust equipment for application rate according to workplace and industry standards 2.5 Apply preparations according to biodynamic principles
3. Use biodynamic compost preparations, composts and liquid brews	3.1 Use and store biodynamic compost preparations according to biodynamic principles 3.2 Identify materials and mineral inputs for compost formulae from farm production plan and soil analysis 3.3 Construct compost according to formulation and biodynamic standards 3.4 Apply biodynamic preparations to compost according to biodynamic industry standards 3.5 Monitor conditions of compost to ensure anticipated decomposition according to workplace procedures and biodynamic standards 3.6 Apply compost to enhance natural cycles
4. Apply biodynamic principles and techniques to enhance soil and plant health	4.1 Plan crop production activities and schedule according to moon rhythms and planetary patterns 4.2 Optimise soil and plant health using biodynamic products and processes 4.3 Monitor crops for weeds and pests in enterprise 4.4 Identify weeds and pests and evaluate options for their control 4.5 Develop, document and implement plan for managing pests and weeds
5. Manage livestock	5.1 Optimise soil and plant health to provide a nutrient-dense and

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
within a biodynamic production system	balanced diet 5.2 Develop and incorporate grazing and feeding strategies into biodynamic system 5.3 Incorporate homeopathic remedies and treatments into livestock health strategies according to biodynamic and organic farming principles 5.4 Implement enterprise livestock welfare policies

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	Critically analyse biodynamic principles, standards and certification procedures to ensure compliance when developing biodynamic production systems
Writing	Write, proofread and edit biodynamic management plans to ensure clarity of meaning, accuracy and consistency of information
Numeracy	Apply mathematical skills for accurately preparing treatments to a formula and for scheduling and analysing biodynamic management outcomes

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCORG409 Manage biodynamic production	AHCORG401 Manage biodynamic production	Minor changes to Application and Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions for	Equivalent

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
		brevity and clarity Foundation Skills added	

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 AHCORG409 Manage biodynamic production

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 9.0.

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, on at least one occasion, managed a farm using biodynamic production principles and has:

- developed goals and plans for a biodynamic or organic enterprise that must include personal, ecological and financial goals
- developed marketing plan that must address quality, integrity and ethical goals
- formulated, prepared, stored and applied biodynamic preparations, which must include:
 - horn manure (500)
 - horn silica (501)
 - horn clay preparations
 - compost
- monitored aeration, moisture and temperature of compost to ensure quality of decomposition
- enhanced soil and plant health, which must include:
 - application of biodynamic preparations
 - sowing and growing cover crops
 - using crop rotation strategies
 - using mulching and composting on soil
 - applying farm-based nutrient products
- identified, assessed and applied biodynamic controls for weeds and pests, which must include:
 - natural predators
 - life cycles of weeds and pests
 - cultural practices
 - soil health
 - plant community

- integrated and managed livestock in a biodynamic enterprise.

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:

- biodynamic production processes and practices, including:
 - animal production and welfare
 - biodynamic preparations and their role in soil food web and atmosphere
 - importance of biodiversity, fauna and native flora on biodynamic farms
 - calcium-clay-silica polarities
 - crop and animal rotation systems and manuring practices
 - cultivation methods
 - etheric and astral forces and how they relate to biodynamics
- strategies for planning and promoting an organic and biodynamic enterprise and its products
- setting up trials and testing procedures used to assess biodynamic methods and products
- quality standards applicable to biodynamic produce
- paradigms of various farming systems: biodynamics, organics and permaculture, and holistic management
- formulation, use and storage of biodynamic preparations, including the selection and use of materials and equipment
- scheduling and planting calendar for production
- relationship between soil, microbes, plant, animal and human health
- research in biodynamics principles and practices
- role of water in biodynamic and organic production and methods of water retention
- pests, diseases and pest plant management in an organic and biodynamic system
- principles, practices and inputs allowable under the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce.

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 biodynamic farm or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - tools and equipment used for managing biodynamic production
 - personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - workplace policies, procedures, processes

- biodynamic and organic industry standards and codes of practice
- timeframes:
 - according to etheric and astral forces.

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>