



Australian Government

AHCORG514 Develop an organic or biodynamic management plan

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 9.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to access assistance, develop sub-plans for soil fertility, weed, integrated pest and disease, animal health and environmental management, and to integrate into the design of an organic management plan (OMP) or biodynamic management plan (BMP).

The unit applies to individuals who apply specialised skills and knowledge, and take personal responsibility and exercise autonomy in undertaking complex work. They analyse and synthesise information and demonstrate deep knowledge in a specific technical area. They analyse, design and communicate solutions to sometimes complex problems.

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. Locate and access assistance in developing OMP or BMP	1.1 Locate and access sources of support and advice 1.2 Assess industry publications for their value in informing decision-making 1.3 Seek and consider contributions of work colleagues and others

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	during planning process 1.4 Access information from certifier and organic or biodynamic standards
2. Design the organic farming system to be described in the OMP or BMP	2.1 Acquire property map 2.2 Determine time scale to be addressed in plan 2.3 Establish benchmark position for soils, pests, diseases and animal health for farm property 2.4 Obtain regional catchment targets for land, water and biodiversity for property and sub-catchment 2.5 Identify components of OMP or BMP to be developed 2.6 Develop format for planning documents 2.7 Identify risks to organic integrity for the farm enterprise, and outline strategies to manage risk
3. Develop soil fertility plan	3.1 Conduct a soil fertility assessment of farm production areas 3.2 Map soil types and topography on farm plan 3.3 Identify and assess options for soil fertility plan 3.4 Identify inputs according to industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles 3.5 Document soil fertility plan according to format
4. Develop soil management sub-plan	4.1 Determine soil physical and chemical characteristics and suitability for production 4.2 Develop soil management plan to improve soil characteristics 4.3 Identify inputs according to industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles 4.4 Document soil management sub-plan according to format 4.5 Identify farm management practices and strategies to enhance soil conditions
5. Develop weed management sub-plan	5.1 Observe and identify weed species and their indication of soil health 5.2 Identify life cycles of weeds species to inform management options 5.3 Identify inputs according to industry standards for organic 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>
	biodynamic production and agroecological principles 5.4 Develop integrated farming strategies and cultural practices for managing weeds 5.5 Document weed management sub-plan according to format
6. Develop and design an integrated pest and disease management sub-plan	6.1 Collect and document evidence of pest and disease incursion in farming system 6.2 Observe and monitor pests and diseases and their life cycles 6.3 Evaluate pest and disease impact 6.4 Evaluate pests, diseases and beneficial organisms as indicators of farming system health 6.5 Identify options for addressing pests and diseases 6.6 Identify inputs according to industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles 6.7 Document integrated pest and disease management sub-plan according to established format
7. Develop animal health and management sub-plan	7.1 Identify regional and farm-based animal health issues 7.2 Identify options for preventative actions for maintaining optimal animal health 7.3 Identify options for treating animal health issues 7.4 Develop a sustainable grazing management plan 7.5 Develop an animal management program that ensures compliance with organic standards or agroecological principles 7.6 Document animal health and management sub-plan according to established format
8. Develop an environmental management sub-plan	8.1 Identify environment and climate issues 8.2 Identify options for addressing environment and climate issues 8.3 Identify appropriate inputs according to industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles 8.4 Document environmental management sub-plan according to established format
9. Integrate and finalise the OMP or BMP	9.1 Collate and integrate sub-plans into OMP or BMP 9.2 Track all plan components to ensure plan is complete

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	9.3 Review and update OMP or BMP annually

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	- Interpret information for industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles, and planning requirements - Identify and interpret information on regional catchment targets for land, water and biodiversity applicable to property and sub-catchment
Oral communication	Initiate discussions with work colleagues and others, using clear language to discuss and communicate plan
Numeracy	- Access and analyse data for input to OMP or BMP - Document time scale and costs of implemented strategy

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCORG514 Develop an organic or biodynamic management plan	AHCORG507 Develop an organic or biodynamic management plan	Minor changes to Application and Performance Criteria for brevity and clarity Changes to Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions for clarity Foundation Skills added	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 AHCORG514 Develop an organic or biodynamic management plan

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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 developed biodynamic or organic management plans for at least two different properties and for each property, has:

- identified and developed required components of organic management plan (OMP) or biodynamic management plan (BMP) for each property
- established benchmark position from past practices for weeds, pests, diseases and animal health status and their interrelationships
- conducted a soil fertility assessment, which must include:
 - soil physical and chemical test results
 - interrelationships between soil, plant, animal health and environment
 - current soil condition and past management practices
- developed a soil fertility plan and soil management sub-plan based on assessment of soil tests and observations, which must include:
 - amendments to soil chemistry
 - soil structure
 - soil biology
- developed a weed management sub-plan
- developed and designed an integrated pest and disease management sub-plan
- developed an animal health and management sub-plan
- developed an environmental management sub-plan
- compiled sub-plans, tracked plan components and documented the OMP or BMP according to organic certification standards

There must also be evidence that the individual has:

- undertaken a review of an existing OMP or BMP for a property.
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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 of organic agriculture,
- fundamental role of soil health, including:
 - soil type
 - slope and aspect
 - previous use
 - soil structure
 - compaction
 - drainage and water logging
 - soil biology and soil food web, and the role of bacteria, fungi and protozoa
 - organic soil nutrition and fertiliser management
 - role of green manures and organic matter
- principles of sustainable production
- use of biological systems for improving soil health resilience
- potential impact of climate change on crop production
- requirements and components of an OMP and BMP
- organic and biodynamic certification standards
- integrated organic pest and disease management, including:
 - cultural practices
 - certified organic pest and disease products
 - system design
 - soil health impact on pests and diseases
 - role of BRIX in pest and disease management
- biological control:
 - cultural practices
 - system design
 - soil health and pests and diseases
- management and farming system's resilience
- animal grazing management, including:
 - feed requirements
 - stocking densities
 - regional catchment land and soil condition targets.

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:
 - industry publications relevant to OMP or BMP
 - OMP or BMP certification standards
 - maps of property
 - soil fertility assessment
- specifications:
 - industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles
- relationships:
 - work colleagues.

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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