



Australian Government

AHCPRK312 Care for weaner pigs

Release: 1

AHCPRK312 Care for weaner pigs

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 care for weaner pigs, including their accommodation, feeding, health and welfare.

This unit applies to individuals who apply technical knowledge and skills with discretion and judgement to care for pigs in pork production environments. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities and solve problems related to pig welfare. Work environments may include indoor and outdoor pork production systems.

Commonwealth and/or state/territory health and safety, animal welfare, environmental protection and biosecurity legislation, regulations and codes of practice apply to keeping and working with pigs. Requirements vary between jurisdictions.

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

Mandatory workplace requirements apply to the assessment of this unit.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Pork (PRK)

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 accommodation for weaners	1.1 Identify and follow biosecurity procedures that apply to entering and working on a pork production site 1.2 Identify health and safety hazards, and assess risks and control

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	risks prior to commencing tasks 1.3 Select, prepare and fit appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the tasks and conditions 1.4 Select, clean and/or disinfect and prepare accommodation for weaner pigs according to pig, safety and security requirements and enterprise procedures 1.5 Check and/or adjust temperature, ventilation, humidity and other environmental conditions to meet pig needs 1.6 Check and prepare feeders and drinkers according to manufacturer instructions and/or enterprise requirements 1.7 Check for signs of pests and/or predators according to enterprise procedures 1.8 Dispose of waste according to enterprise biosecurity and environmental procedures 1.9 Resolve, record and report issues according to enterprise procedures
2. Carry out weaner pig operations	2.1 Identify health and safety hazards, and assess and control risks related to weaner pig operations 2.2 Select and fit PPE according to enterprise safety and biosecurity requirements 2.3 Group pigs into viable groups to achieve optimal productivity 2.4 Provide water and feed according to established feeding plan and schedule 2.5 Monitor pig behaviour, welfare and health daily, and action and/or report issues according to enterprise procedures 2.6 Apply and record treatments to pigs according to Farm Treatment Plan or Approved Medication List, using safe manual handling and low stress animal handling techniques 2.7 Report abnormal or unexpected mortalities as required 2.8 Remove dead pigs, and record according to enterprise biosecurity and environmental requirements
3. Transition weaners to grower or other facility	3.1 Identify pigs that are ready for transition to grower facilities 3.2 Separate pigs not fit to load, and take appropriate actions according to enterprise policy

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	3.3 Complete documentation according to enterprise requirements 3.4 Move pigs to grower facility or load onto transport vehicle as required, using safe and low stress handling techniques

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 textual information in enterprise procedures, forms and work standards related to pig care
Writing	Record pig health and treatments accurately using industry terminology
Numeracy	Estimate and calculate quantity, weight, area, volume, ratio and temperature

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCPRK312 Care for weaner pigs	AHCPRK204 Care for weaner pigs	AQF indicator in unit code changed to reflect revised unit outcomes Major changes to all sections of the unit Worker health and safety outcomes clarified Foundation skills added Mandatory workplace requirements added	Not 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 AHCPRK312 Care for weaner pigs

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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 safely and effectively cared for at least two different groups of weaner pigs. Each group must include at least four pigs. For each group, the individual must have:

- identified at least two health and safety hazards, and assessed and controlled associated risks
- selected, checked and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- used safe and low stress animal handling techniques to care for weaner pigs
- identified and applied enterprise health and safety, infection control, biosecurity and environmental protection procedures
- maintained weaner pig environments, including:
 - checked and prepared feeders and drinkers are operational
 - cleaned and/or disinfected food handling equipment and/or housing area
 - identified and reported pest and/or predator activity
 - disposed of waste materials according to environmental requirements
- monitored feed and water quantity, quality and availability
- fed according to weaner pig requirements, including monitored feeding and drinking patterns
- monitored and reported basic pig health and identified signs of:
 - ill health, injury or distress
 - abnormal or depressed appetite
 - non-routine behaviour.

The individual must also have:

- treated at least two pigs according to enterprise requirements, including:
 - administered treatments according to Farm Treatment Plan or Approved Medication List
 - demonstrated safe handling and positioning of self to reduce risks to pigs, self and others

- safely stored or disposed of materials used for treatments according to enterprise health, safety and biosecurity requirements
- documented at least two treatments provided to pigs, including their withholding period and/or export slaughter interval.

In addition to the above, the individual must have removed and/or disposed of a dead or non-viable pig according to enterprise biosecurity and environmental procedures.

Mandatory workplace requirements

All performance evidence specified above must be demonstrated in a pork production site.

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:

- key features of state/territory legislation, regulations and codes of practice for worker health and safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and environment protection that apply to caring for weaner pigs
- enterprise procedures and requirements for worker health and safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and environment protection that apply to caring for weaner pigs
- hazard identification, risk assessment and controls to minimise risks when caring for weaner pigs
- key care, health and welfare requirements for weaner pigs, including nutrition, water, and protection from adverse weather and predators
- features, functions and benefits of common types of infrastructure, enclosures and equipment used to house and care for weaner pigs using indoor and outdoor farming systems
- drinkers, feeders and other common equipment used to care for weaner pigs in indoor and outdoor farming systems, including:
 - features, functions and benefits
 - safety and operational checks
 - maintenance, cleaning and disinfection requirements
- enterprise procedures for identifying and reporting contaminated feed and water
- optimal range, effects and impacts of ventilation, temperature, humidity and other environmental parameters on weaner pig health and welfare
- typical requirements of enterprise work routines for grower and finisher pigs
- safe and low stress techniques for handling and restraining weaner pigs, including injured and ill pigs
- requirements, methods and procedures for weaning piglets
- requirements, methods and procedures for formation of viable weaner groups, and the impacts of a viable group on individual pig health and production, including consideration of pig weight, sex and stocking density
- key features of pig anatomy and body functions
- signs of common weaner pig ill health, diseases and injuries, and detection methods, including:

- irregular behaviour, including self-isolation, lethargy, loss of appetite and drinking
- checks including weight and breathing
- limp in step, straight tail, head tilt and body tremors
- checking skin for red patches, scabs, bleeding, lesions, swelling, open wounds and unusual discharges from eyes, nose and genitalia
- abnormal faeces
- methods and procedures for feeding and watering weaner pigs
- criteria and methods of assessing optimal stocking densities of weaner pigs
- criteria for assessing suitability of weaner pigs for transition to grower facilities, including Fitness to Load guidelines
- requirements, methods and procedures for removal and disposal of pig carcasses, including enterprise biosecurity and environmental considerations
- types, storage, handling, application and disposal procedures of health care treatments of weaner pigs, including withholding periods
- types, storage, handling, use and disposal of cleaning agents and disinfectants commonly used in weaner pig care, including related health, safety and environmental requirements
- zoonoses, including erysipelas, Japanese encephalitis, leptospirosis, ringworm and influenza
- key features of typical enterprise recording and reporting requirements related to pig care.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - *a pork production site*
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - *live pigs specified in performance evidence*
 - *pig care infrastructure, materials, resources, tools and equipment, including PPE*
 - *safety data sheets*
- specifications:
 - *enterprise procedures for pig care, health and welfare, worker health and safety, and biosecurity activities.*

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

Mandatory workplace requirements

Mandatory workplace requirements are shown in *italic text*. Refer to the Companion Volume Implementation Guide for further information.

Links

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