



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for AHCPRK315 Care for sows prior, during and after farrowing

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.

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 two different sows prior to farrowing, and during farrowing and lactation. For each sow, the individual must have completed the following according to individual pig and enterprise requirements:

- identified at least two health and safety hazards, and assessed and controlled associated risks
- selected, checked and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- identified and applied enterprise health and safety, biosecurity and protection procedures
- selected and checked equipment and resources required for each task
- used safe and low stress animal handling techniques when handling sows and piglets
- demonstrated safe manual handling techniques as required
- prepared and monitored pig accommodation according to individual animal needs
- met the nutritional needs of sows according to enterprise regime, including:
 - assessed and measured the rate and frequency of feeding
 - adjusted feeding levels pre-farrowing and post-farrowing
 - adjusted feed levels throughout lactation
- monitored animal health and condition, and recognised and reported to supervisor signs of ill health, injury and abnormalities
- administered health treatments as required
- determined or approximated sow due date from relevant data
- recognised signs of imminent parturition
- recognised signs of birthing difficulties in sows, and taken appropriate action
- implemented contingency measures to address unforeseen events, including:
 - adverse weather
 - facility and equipment malfunctions
- documented farrowing data, including litter size and any interventions required.

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 farrowing sows
- enterprise procedures and requirements for worker health and safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and environment protection that apply to caring for farrowing sows
- enterprise procedures for care of farrowing sows, birthing pigs, lactating sows and weaning piglets, including recording and reporting requirements
- hazard identification, risk assessment and controls to minimise risks when caring for farrowing sows
- safe manual handling, and low stress techniques for handling farrowing sows and piglets
- physiological and behavioural signs in sows of impending birth
- typical behaviours and signs of farrowing difficulties
- key causes of farrowing difficulties
- intervention and follow-up treatment strategies for difficult births
- housing and nutritional requirements of pregnant and lactating sows
- feed and feed supplements for pregnant sows, and when to provide them
- effects of weather conditions and inadequate nutrition on pregnant sows and their newborn
- health treatments, procedures and methods for pregnant and lactating sows
- worker health and safety hazards associated with handling farrowing sows, and veterinarian medicines and chemicals related to farrowing sows
- key information provided in Farm Treatment Plan and Approved Medication List for care of farrowing sows
- pests and predators and their impact on farrowing sows and their piglets
- zoonoses, including erysipelas, leptospirosis, Japanese encephalitis, worms 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 accommodation, materials, resources, tools and equipment, including PPE, and applicable to working with pigs*
- *safety data sheets*
- specifications:
 - *enterprise procedures related to pig care, animal welfare, worker health and safety, and biosecurity*
- relationships:
 - *supervisor.*

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

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