



Australian Government

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.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assist sows prior to, during and after farrowing. It includes weaning piglets where required.

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 industry sectors and 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 farrowing environment	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 tasks and conditions 1.4 Select, clean and/or disinfect and prepare accommodation for sows according to pig, security and safety requirements and enterprise procedures 1.5 Check and/or adjust housing environment and conditions as required to ensure appropriate ventilation, temperature and humidity 1.6 Check and/or adjust feeders and drinkers to ensure availability of feed and correct flow rate 1.7 Check for signs of pests and/or predators according to enterprise procedures 1.8 Resolve and/or report issues according to enterprise requirements
2. Monitor pre-farrowing sows	2.1 Monitor general health and welfare of pre-farrowing sows 2.2 Move and acclimatise sows and gilts to new environment as required, using safe manual handling techniques and low stress animal handling techniques 2.3 Adjust feeding regime for pre-farrowing sows as required 2.4 Check sow records and confirm anticipated due date where possible 2.5 Identify sows showing signs of farrowing, and adjust environment accordingly 2.6 Identify, resolve and report issues to supervisor, including overdue sows
3. Care for farrowing sows	3.1 Select, check and prepare farrowing equipment and resources required to assist sows 3.2 Monitor sows for signs of distress and/or discomfort 3.3 Identify health and safety hazards, and assess and control risks related to assisting sows during farrowing 3.4 Select and fit PPE according to enterprise safety and biosecurity requirements 3.5 Identify sows experiencing farrowing difficulties, and assist sows according to enterprise safety and animal welfare procedures 3.6 Record and report farrowing data and/or issues as required

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
4. Care for lactating sows	4.1 Monitor sows for signs of lactation 4.2 Adjust feeding regime to suit sow nutritional requirements throughout lactation 4.3 Identify signs of ill health and/or discomfort in sows and piglets, and take appropriate action according to Farm Treatment Plan and welfare requirements 4.4 Maintain clean pig environment and dispose of waste according to enterprise environmental requirements 4.5 Foster piglets according to sow capacity and enterprise procedures 4.6 Record and report husbandry data and/or issues as required
5. Wean sows	5.1 Confirm sows to be weaned according to enterprise procedures 5.2 Identify and move piglets to be weaned 5.3 Record weaning data according to enterprise procedures 5.4 Complete sow husbandry and health procedures according to Farm Treatment Plan 5.5 Relocate sows according to production program

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 farrow data accurately using industry terminology
Numeracy	Estimate and calculate quantity, weight, volume, ratio and temperature

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCPRK315 Care for sows prior, during and after farrowing	Not applicable	The unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry that is not covered by an existing unit	Newly created

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 AHCPRK315 Care for sows prior, during and after farrowing

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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 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

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