



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCBAC302A Establish pastures and crops for livestock production

Release: 1

AHCBA302A Establish pastures and crops for livestock production

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the functions required to establish pastures and crops for livestock production and defines the standard required to: assess existing pastures and crops to maximise livestock production; calibrate boom spray; seed drill and fertiliser spreader; identify pests and diseases; sow and monitor new pastures and crops; select pasture species; sowing method and application appropriate for optimal yield; manage grazing systems including weed and stubble control; control pests and weeds without damage to the crop or pasture.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	The unit applies to preparing machinery and equipment, ploughing, cultivating, seeding, applying any pre-planting treatments, maintaining machinery and equipment, and relevant record keeping. This standard requires the application of skills and knowledge to use specialised equipment to carry out seeding and fertiliser operations appropriate to soil and weather conditions.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
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Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not Applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Prepare for pasture and crop establishment	1.1. Pasture and crop establishment program is sourced to meet production requirements and enterprise objectives. 1.2. Pre-treatment (including inoculation) of seed is carried out prior to sowing where required. 1.3. Sowing methods are selected appropriate to pasture species to maximise pasture survival. 1.4. Fertilisers are applied according to crop/pasture needs and enterprise requirements. 1.5. Machinery and equipment are selected for soils of property and operated according to manufacturer's instructions, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and enterprise requirements.
2. Implement pasture and crop establishment program	2.1. Machinery and equipment is prepared for sowing. 2.2. Seeding and fertilising equipment is calibrated for correct rate and placement. 2.3. Pasture and crop is sown for even germination and growth. 2.4. Fertilisers and pesticides are applied at correct rate and stage of growth.
3. Manage fodder production	3.1. Livestock are used to control stubble and fallow weeds as part of an integrated pest management program. 3.2. Grazing program ensures high production levels and sound pasture regrowth. 3.3. Grazing of crops and pastures is carefully controlled during pasture and crop establishment. 3.4. Grazing is managed to minimise damage to soil structure and to prevent erosion according to sustainable land management practices.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- operate machinery and equipment

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- calibrate boom spray and drill and fertiliser spreader
- identify pests and diseases
- identify pasture and crop species (both seed and seedlings)
- identify and control weeds
- handle chemicals safely
- mix and inoculate seed
- interpret and implement crop and pasture production plans
- use literacy skills to read, interpret and follow organisational policies and procedures, follow sequenced written instructions, record accurately and legible information collected and select and apply procedures for a range of tasks
- use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role as specified by the organisation, including questioning techniques, active listening, clarifying information and consulting with supervisors as required
- use numeracy skills to estimate, calculate and record routine workplace measures
- use interpersonal skills to work with and relate to people from a range of cultural, social and religious backgrounds and with a range of physical and mental abilities.

Required knowledge

- types of grasses, legumes and crops
- types of seed inoculants and fertilizers
- seed and fertilizer placement for optimal germination and growth
- integrated weed control including chemical application, cultural practices and grazing management
- relevant provisions of the Native Vegetation Acts with particular attention to potential soil degradation and destruction of flora and fauna
- safe use of chemicals and machinery
- advantages and disadvantages of pasture and crop establishment programs
- timing of pasture and crop establishment
- OHS legislative requirements and safe work procedures
- procedures for minimising environmental impacts.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE	
The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.	
Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy holistically all of the requirements of the performance criteria and required skills and knowledge and include achievement of the following: • assess existing pastures and crops to maximise livestock production • calibrate boom spray, seed drill and fertiliser spreader • identify pests and diseases • sow and monitor new pastures and crops • select pasture species, sowing method and application appropriate for optimal yield • manage grazing systems including weed and stubble control • control pests and weeds without damage to the crop or pasture.
Context of and specific resources for assessment	Competency requires the application of work practices under work conditions. Selection and use of resources for some worksites may differ due to the regional or enterprise circumstances.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT	
The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole.	
Crop and pasture establishment methods may include:	• methods covering establishment in virgin ground • establishment after a cropping program • replacement of run down pasture • changing the composition of pastures • growing fodder crops

RANGE STATEMENT	
	• growing cash crops • re-establishing pastures after earthworks.
Sowing methods may include	• under sowing • direct drilling • band seeding • broadcasting seed into stubbles or on to existing pasture.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Broad acre cropping
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
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