



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCBAC401A Manage pastures for livestock production

Release: 1

AHCBA401A Manage pastures for livestock production

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the management of pastures for livestock production and defines the standard required to: establish production targets for each pasture type in an enterprise; develop a pasture management program to meet production targets and enterprise objectives; carry out strategic grazing to reduce or eradicate areas of weed infestation; monitor soil health and grazing management to ensure sustainable pasture and optimal livestock production levels; monitor pasture yields and evaluate against forecast production levels; maintain physical and financial records of production.
------------------------	---

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to livestock managers working independently, with only technical advice sought from others in areas such as pasture selection, pasture management and grazing management.
--------------------------------	---

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
-----------------------------	--

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not Applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Develop a pasture management program	1.1. Production targets for each pasture type are established, consistent with livestock production and enterprise objectives. 1.2. Irrigation schedules, where required, are determined for each soil and pasture type based on assessed water requirements, rainfall and evapo-transpiration data. 1.3. Nutrient requirements for pastures are assessed to determine appropriate fertiliser and soil ameliorant program. 1.4. Grazing and fodder conservation strategies are identified and planned for. 1.5. Infrastructure required to support grazing management is identified. 1.6. Budgetary constraints are identified and accounted for according to enterprise requirements. 1.7. A pasture management program is developed to meet production targets and enterprise objectives.
2. Implement pasture management program	2.1. Pasture program is implemented and pasture capacity is monitored according to enterprise requirements. 2.2. Strategic grazing may be carried out to reduce or eradicate areas of weed infestation where planned. 2.3. Fertiliser and soil ameliorant applications and rates are determined appropriate to pasture type and soil analysis, and applied accordingly. 2.4. Soil moisture is monitored and watering scheduled adjusted for irrigated pasture. 2.5. Processes to minimise waste and soil degradation are introduced and implemented according to enterprise environmental requirements.
3. Monitor pasture growth and fodder production	3.1. Longer term trends in weed, pest and disease incidence are determined and any necessary changes to control measures are implemented. 3.2. Soil structure and risks of erosion are monitored and necessary changes to cultural practices, grazing management and drainage are determined to improve soil quality. 3.3. Irrigation and drainage systems are checked regularly and maintained if appropriate. 3.4. Grazing management is monitored to ensure sustainable pasture and optimal livestock production

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
	levels. 3.5. Feed surpluses and deficiencies are identified and appropriate action taken according to enterprise requirements. 3.6. Pasture maturity is monitored and seed harvesting is undertaken to meet marketing and production targets if required.
4. Review production level	4.1. Pasture yields are monitored and evaluated against forecast production levels. 4.2. Grazing programs are evaluated for sustainability of the land and pasture resource, and livestock profitability. 4.3. Physical and financial records of production are maintained for analysis and evaluation of production performance.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- determine fertiliser, soil ameliorants and biological inputs required to support production
- apply environmental protection strategies in land use
- set objectives and milestones for pasture production
- calculate costs
- determine soil quality and land use capability
- monitor the productivity and feed intake of grazing livestock
- develop grazing strategies and plan infrastructure required
- assess the impact of grazing on pasture productivity and resilience
- identify pasture species and estimate dry matter production of pasture
- assess options to control weed infestation
- identify strategies for pest and disease control
- use literacy skills to read, interpret and follow organisational policies and procedures, develop sequenced written instructions, record accurately and legibly information collected and select and apply procedures to a range of tasks
- use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role as specified by the organisation including questioning, active listening, asking for

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- clarification, negotiating solutions and responding to a range of views
- use interpersonal skills to work with others and relate to people from a range of cultural, social and religious backgrounds and with a range of physical and mental abilities.

Required knowledge

- land and soil conditions
- pasture species and growing requirements
- pasture grazing strategies
- nutrient requirements and soil fertility
- environmental protection strategies
- safe handling processes for fertilisers
- infestation patterns for different types of weed
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislative and enterprise requirements
- relevant environmental codes of practice, legislation and regulations relating to farm production.

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:

- establish production targets for each pasture type in an enterprise
- develop a pasture management program to meet production targets and enterprise objectives
- carry out strategic grazing to reduce or eradicate areas of weed infestation
- monitor soil health and grazing management to ensure sustainable pasture and optimal livestock production levels
- monitor pasture yields and evaluate against forecast production levels.
- maintain physical and financial records of production.

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.

Livestock production may include:

- all unimproved and improved rangelands used for grazing including:
 - temperate and tropical pastures
 - crop stubble

RANGE STATEMENT

	shrubs and trees that may be used for stock feed.
--	---

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Broadacre cropping
-------------	--------------------

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
------------------	--