



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCBAC502A Manage forage conservation

Release: 1

AHCBA502A Manage forage conservation

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers managing forage conservation and defines the standard required to: assess cost benefit and forage conservation options; select appropriate forage conservation method; select suitable forage conservation machinery; oversee harvest, forage preparation and storage; record work activities.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to those whose job function includes managing the production of hay and silage and the storage of forage to ensure quality is maintained.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

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

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1. Plan for forage conservation	1.1. Determine the resource needs and end use requirements of forage conservation in the farm production system. 1.2. Define forage conservation options and cost benefit. 1.3. Select appropriate paddocks for forage conservation with regard to species selection and target growth stage. 1.4. Select appropriate forage conservation machinery, equipment and personal protective equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements and industry practice. 1.5. Ensure safe access to paddocks for harvesting and transport machinery. 1.6. Plan and prepare storage facility/system for selected forage conservation method. 1.7. Identify and minimise potential environmental impacts of forage conservation activities. 1.8. Negotiate contracts and costs including crop inputs, machinery, harvest area and storage sites where applicable. 1.9. Communicate details of work activities with workers and/or contractors where applicable.
2. Prepare paddocks for forage conservation	2.1. Identify need for fertiliser, irrigation, weed control and grazing or slashing before closing paddock to stock at appropriate time. 2.2. Identify optimum time for harvest of key species. 2.3. Monitor and control weeds, pests and diseases.
3. Oversee forage harvesting operations	3.1. Establish dry matter targets for the selected method of forage conservation. 3.2. Monitor seasonal and current weather conditions to determine optimum time for harvest and to ensure quality. 3.3. Assess condition and dry matter content of the crop throughout the harvesting operation. 3.4. Select harvesting and conditioning machinery based on weather conditions and forage drying targets. 3.5. Ensure that harvesting activities are conducted in a safe, controlled and efficient manner. 3.6. Ensure that baling, wrapping, compacting, sealing and/or storage of forage is in accordance with storage

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
	plan. 3.7. Ensure that forage is safely loaded, transported and stored in accordance with OHS and quality requirements and to minimise spoilage and the risk of combustion.
4. Complete operation	4.1. Complete records in accordance with quality assurance requirements and industry practice. 4.2. Ensure waste and debris is disposed of to minimise environmental impact. 4.3. Ensure that machinery and ancillary equipment is cleaned and serviced in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, OHS requirements and industry practice. 4.4. Conduct quality checks on stored forage. 4.5. Monitor and minimise environmental impacts of forage conservation activities including concentration of nutrients at field out areas and effluent run-off.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- assess the need for and implications of forage conservation in the farming system
- select and implement a forage conservation system
- perform harvesting operations
- use literacy skills to fulfil job roles as required by the organisation. The level of skill may range from reading and understanding documentation to completion of written reports
- use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role as specified by the organisation including questioning, active listening, asking for clarification, negotiating solutions and responding to a range of views
- use numeracy skills to estimate, calculate and record complex workplace measures
- 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

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- economic analysis of forage conservation
- silage and hay conservation systems
- factors affecting the quality of silage and hay
- dry matter content, quality and hygiene requirements
- range and functions of silage and haymaking machinery and equipment
- common weeds, pests and diseases associated with crops and pastures
- types and application of personal protective equipment
- legislation and regulations including licensing requirements in relation to forage operations
- risk factors including human and animal health, weather, harvesting and environmental.

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 cost benefit and forage conservation options • select appropriate forage conservation method • select suitable forage conservation machinery • oversee harvest, forage preparation and storage • record work activities.
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.	
Forage conservation methods may include:	• hay • silage • haylage • green chop.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Broadacre cropping
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
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