



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCORG402A Manage organic livestock production

Release: 1

AHCORG402A Manage organic livestock production

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the process of integrating livestock production into an organic production system and defines the standard required to: monitor and maintain animals in an organic production system; provide a suitable diet and living environment for animals based on the National Organic Standards for Organic Livestock Production; integrate animals into an organic production system; manage grazing of animals and allowable inputs to enhance soil health and fertility.
------------------------	---

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to farmers who manage according to the principles of biodynamic agriculture. Work is likely to be done independently and according to the requirements of the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce.
--------------------------------	---

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. Manage animal health and welfare	1.1. All work is undertaken in an environmentally appropriate manner and according to the principles of organic agriculture, occupational health and safety requirements and enterprise guidelines. 1.2. Natural behaviours of animals and requirements of animal welfare codes of practice are considered in planning for organic livestock production. 1.3. Genetic resistance to parasites is incorporated into breeding strategy. 1.4. Livestock is monitored constantly for health and welfare and records are kept according to enterprise requirements. 1.5. Animal health preventative strategies are developed, communicated to others working on farm and implemented. 1.6. Use of prohibited/restricted substances for organic livestock is documented and treated animals are identified and quarantined. 1.7. Animal transport is conducted humanely and in compliance with organic certification requirements. 1.8. Livestock records required for organic certification are maintained.
2. Develop and implement feed production and storage requirements	2.1. Planning for winter feed and drought preparedness is undertaken. 2.2. Haymaking and/or cropping are incorporated into annual program for animal feed and on-farm sustainability. 2.3. Long term storage for hay and feed is implemented and quality and quantity are monitored.
3. Develop and implement grazing strategies to achieve biodiversity, recycling and sustainability	3.1. Soil and plant health are optimised to provide a nutrient-dense and balanced diet for livestock. 3.2. Pastures are assessed for diversity, health, vigour and ground cover. 3.3. Infrastructure required for implementing rotational grazing strategies is identified and incorporated into property improvement program. 3.4. Rotational grazing strategies are developed and implemented. 3.5. Impact of grazing strategies on nutrient recycling and pasture diversity, persistence and vigour is evaluated. 3.6. Strategies for controlling weeds in pastures are

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
	implemented.
4. Research and source allowable inputs for organic livestock production	4.1. Level of nutrients exported from farm is estimated. 4.2. Soil-testing program, including observation of pasture species present, is implemented in order to monitor and maintain optimal pasture species and soil health. 4.3. Soil nutrient levels are replenished through recycling, optimising nutrient availability in soil, and sourcing allowable inputs where necessary. 4.4. Organic fertilisers and soil conditioners are applied to ensure a mineral-balanced and healthy soil. 4.5. Certification protocols for sourcing essential fodder off-farm are followed. 4.6. Fodder is sourced and fed to stock, minimising risk of weed spread and maintaining adequate records.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- animal handling and husbandry techniques
- assessing pastures
- monitoring feed intake
- feed budgeting
- parasite and disease monitoring
- developing grazing strategies
- 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 clarification, negotiating solutions and responding to a range of views
- use numeracy skills to estimate, calculate and record routine and more complex workplace measures and data
- 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 SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**Required knowledge**

- certification requirements
- animal parasites and diseases
- animal welfare code of practice
- grazing management, including pasture identification and assessment, feed budgeting and grazing strategies
- management options for animal health based on an understanding of pest life cycles, genetic selection and acquired immunity
- permitted, restricted and prohibited inputs and activities as described in the National Organic Standards for Organic Livestock Production
- principles of organic agriculture
- relationship between soil, plant and animal health
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and animal welfare legislation and codes of practice.
- record keeping
- principles, practices and inputs allowable under the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce.

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:

- monitor and maintain animals in an organic production system
- provide a suitable diet and living environment for animals based on the National Organic Standards for Organic Livestock Production
- integrate animals into an organic production system
- manage grazing of animals and allowable inputs to enhance soil health and fertility.

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.

Organic may include:

- the application of practices that emphasise the use of renewable resources
- conservation of energy, soil and water
- recognition of livestock welfare needs
- environmental maintenance and enhancement, while producing optimum quantities of produce without the use of artificial fertiliser or synthetic chemicals.

RANGE STATEMENT	
Livestock may include:	domestic or domesticated aquatic and terrestrial animals including insects.
Production may include:	any primary production involved in producing an agricultural or aquaculture product.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Organic production
--------------------	--------------------

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

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