

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version XX
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0

AHCORG401	Manage biodynamic production
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage a farming system according to the principles, practices and standards for organic and biodynamic agricultural production.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals and farmers who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others within known parameters and use discretion and judgment in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Organic Production (ORG)

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 a plan for a biodynamic farming enterprise	1.1 Identify health, safety and environmental hazards, assess risk and develop controls according to workplace procedures 1.2 Identify requirements for biodynamic certification 1.3 Develop an enterprise plan for a biodynamic enterprise 1.4 Develop marketing plan for biodynamic produce 1.5 Investigate and implement trials for biodynamic agriculture and products 1.6 Record outcomes of trials and incorporate into business plans 1.7 Develop and implement biodynamic production plan according to biodynamic principles and organic farming strategies
2. Make and apply biodynamic field spray preparations	2.1 Formulate, manufacture and store biodynamic field spray preparations 2.2 Agitate preparations to ensure homogeneity 2.3 Select and prepare equipment for application of biodynamic preparation 2.4 Calibrate and adjust equipment for application rate according to workplace and industry standards 2.5 Apply preparations according to biodynamic principles
3. Use biodynamic compost preparations, composts and liquid brews	3.1 Use and store biodynamic compost preparations according to biodynamic principles 3.2 Identify materials and mineral inputs for compost formulae from farm production plan and soil analysis 3.3 Construct compost according to formulation and biodynamic standards 3.4 Apply biodynamic preparations to compost according to biodynamic industry standards 3.5 Monitor conditions of compost to ensure anticipated decomposition according to workplace procedures and biodynamic standards 3.6 Apply compost enhance natural cycles
4. Apply biodynamic principles and techniques to enhance soil and plant health	4.1 Plan crop production activities and schedule according to moon rhythms and planetary patterns 4.2 Optimise soil and plant health using biodynamic products and processes 4.3 Monitor crops for weeds and pests in enterprise 4.4 Identify weeds and pests and evaluate options for their control 4.5 Develop, document and implement plan for managing pests and weeds

Commented [RB1]: Transferred much of the detail in the PCs to performance evidence where it should be assessed

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Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
5. Manage animals within a biodynamic production system	5.1 Optimise soil and plant health to provide a nutrient-dense and balanced diet 5.2 Develop and incorporate grazing and feeding strategies into biodynamic system 5.3 Incorporate homeopathic remedies and treatments into animal health strategies according to biodynamic and organic farming principles 5.4 Implement enterprise animal welfare policies

Commented [RB1]: Transferred much of the detail in the PCs to performance evidence where it should be assessed

Foundation Skills	
<i>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.</i>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically analyse biodynamic principles, standards and certification procedures to ensure compliance when developing biodynamic production systems
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write, proofread and edit biodynamic management plans to ensure clarity of meaning, accuracy and consistency of information
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply mathematical skills for accurately preparing treatments to a formula and for scheduling and analysing biodynamic management outcomes

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCORG401 Manage biodynamic production	AHCORG401 Manage biodynamic production	Minor changes to Application and Performance Criteria for brevity and clarity	Equivalent
Links		Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72	

TITLE	Assessment requirements for AHCORG401 Manage biodynamic production
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has on at least one occasion managed a farm using biodynamic production principles and has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed enterprise plan which must include, personal, ecological and financial goals • developed marketing plan which must address, quality, integrity and ethical goals • formulated, manufactured, stored and applied biodynamic preparations which must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • horn manure (500) • horn silica (501) • horn clay preparations • compost • monitored aeration, moisture and temperature of compost to ensure quality of decomposition • enhanced soil and plant health, which must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application of biodynamic preparations • sowing and growing cover crops • using crop rotation strategies • used mulching and composting on soil • applied farm-based nutrient products • identified, assessed and applied biodynamic controls for weeds and pests which must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural predators • life cycles of weeds and pests • cultural practices • soil health • plant community • integrated and managed animals in a biodynamic enterprise • implemented health, safety, animal welfare and environmental sustainability practices. 	
Knowledge Evidence	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal health • biodynamic preparations and their role in soil food web and atmosphere • biodiversity, shelter belts, birds and native bush on biodynamic farm • calcium-clay-silica polarities • crop and animal rotation systems • cultivation methods • etheric and astral forces and how they relate to biodynamics • experiments and testing methods such as chromatography and sensitive crystallisation • green manuring • management of insects and birds • paradigms of various farming systems: biodynamics, organics and permaculture, and holistic management • peppering for animals and insects • planting calendar • purpose of various herbs and organs used for making biodynamic preparations • relationship between soil, plant, animal and human health • research in biodynamics principles and practices • rhythms and cycles of planets and moon • role of the biodynamic preparations 500-508 • role of bacteria and fungi • role of humus • soil: food web information, how it is made, its structure and feeding cycle • water retention 	

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Knowledge Evidence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• weed management• principles, practices and inputs allowable under the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce.	
Assessment Conditions	
Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• physical conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• skills must be demonstrated on a biodynamic farm or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions• resources, equipment and materials:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of tools and equipment• use of personal protective equipment• specifications:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of workplace policies, procedures, processes• use of biodynamic and organic industry standards and codes of practice• timeframes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• according to etheric and astral forces Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.	
Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72