



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry and Recording

Unit code: F2EA 34

Unit purpose: This Unit will develop candidates' key skills and competence in livestock husbandry, equipment use and record keeping whilst also helping to develop safe working practices in handling livestock and using equipment. It may be suitable for candidates who are studying for a Group Award in an area related to agriculture, or the rural economy.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Perform a range of livestock husbandry skills.
- 2 Describe the function and use of livestock production equipment.
- 3 Explain the uses of livestock records and complete and organise records pertaining to livestock.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to the Unit will be at the discretion of the centre. There is no specialist prior knowledge required. However, it would be beneficial for candidates to have had relevant vocational work experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: This Unit is assessed by both observation of practical skills and assignments in which candidates demonstrate their ability to record and analyse information pertaining to livestock enterprises.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Assessment: This Unit is assessed by both observation of practical skills and assignments in which candidates demonstrate their ability to record and analyse information pertaining to livestock enterprises.

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Perform a range of livestock husbandry skills

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Stock handling
- ◆ Stock inspection
- ◆ Condition scoring
- ◆ Finished stock
- ◆ Dosing and vaccination techniques
- ◆ Milking techniques
- ◆ Safe working procedures

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they are able to:

- ◆ demonstrate competence in key husbandry skills and carry these out in accordance with good farm practice and safe working procedures
- ◆ demonstrate that the selection of livestock for breeding purposes is justified
- ◆ demonstrate that the selection of finished livestock is consistent with market requirements

On farm assessment with suitable livestock is required for this Outcome. Candidates must be able to gain control over a given animal and move it as required, whilst inspecting it. They must inspect the main attributes with respect to the physical competence of the animal: feet and legs, teeth and mouth, reproductive organs and udder, and give a supplementary commentary. Based on this inspection they must explain whether they would retain the animal or not for future breeding. They must demonstrate that they can accurately condition score a group of at least six animals to within ½ a Unit of condition score and explain target condition scores for the production cycle of a given class of livestock. They must demonstrate that they can select finished livestock to meet current market requirements.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry and Recording

They must demonstrate the correct procedures for dosing and vaccination of animals including selection of an appropriate site for vaccination. Candidates must be able to competently operate within a milking parlour for a minimum of 45 minutes.

Evidence for this Outcome will be assessed under controlled conditions.

Assessment Guidelines

As this Outcome is assessed by observation of practical skills, all candidates should be suitably dressed in protective clothing and footwear for all assessments, and demonstrate safe working practices at all times.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry and Recording

Outcome 2

Describe the function and use of livestock production equipment

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Identification and recording equipment
- ◆ Handling equipment
- ◆ Milking plant
- ◆ Feeding equipment

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they are able to:

- ◆ describe two items of equipment for identifying and recording livestock
- ◆ describe an appropriate handling system for cattle or sheep
- ◆ describe the operation and functioning of a milking plant
- ◆ describe the functioning and use of an item of livestock feeding equipment

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a report based on actual observations made on livestock Units.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry and Recording

Outcome 3

Explain the uses of livestock records and complete and organise records pertaining to livestock

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Stock numbers
- ◆ Livestock data
- ◆ Medicine book
- ◆ Physical efficiency factors
- ◆ Financial efficiency factors
- ◆ Uses of records

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they are able to:

- ◆ correctly complete a record of stock numbers taking account of given births, deaths, additions, sales and any other movements
- ◆ describe the movement records required to be kept on any livestock farm
- ◆ correctly complete a medicine book by noting animal identity, medicine and date of use, dosage, and withdrawal for given instances of drug administration
- ◆ calculate at least two physical efficiency factors from liveweight gain, lactation yield, lambing percentage, or killing out percentage
- ◆ calculate a financial gross margin from data for a given livestock enterprise
- ◆ explain the usage of livestock records. Responses must cover statutory records, quality assurance records and animal performance records

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by completion of a workbook under supervised conditions.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2EA 34

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry and Recording

Superclass category: SH

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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry and Recording

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Good stockmanship and the correct use of associated livestock equipment play a key role in efficient livestock production, forming a central requirement of animal welfare and farm assurance schemes. The maintenance of accurate livestock records for legal, quality assurance and management purposes is also vital for the success of an enterprise and business. This Unit is designed to develop in candidates, the key skills and competences in livestock husbandry, equipment use and record keeping.

Within Outcome 1, the practical skills to be developed will reflect available livestock resources ie dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, pigs etc. at the particular centre of study. Instruction, demonstration and finally hands on practical experience will develop competence in a range of skills such as milking, body condition scoring, weighing, footcare, injecting, dosing, ear tagging, livestock movement and handling, livestock transport, assisting with parturition, and care of a newly-born animal. The correct selection of breeding stock will be based on performance/breeding records, visual assessment of conformation, health status, and age/weight. The correct selection of finished animals for specified market outlets should be based on body condition score/fat class, weight, conformation and any other relevant factors, such as breed.

Within Outcome 2 candidates will gain knowledge of the operation and functioning of various items of livestock equipment such as recording equipment, handling equipment and livestock feeding equipment. Some knowledge, such as in the function of milking plant or use of handling facilities, will be acquired mainly by practical experience.

Within Outcome 3 candidates will gain knowledge in the use of physical and financial records for enterprise management purposes and some secondary performance measures (eg daily liveweight gain, calving index, stocking rate, lambing percentage, feed conversion efficiency) will be calculated. A range of livestock records should be covered, including statutory records (identification, animal passports, animal movements, animal medicine use, risk assessments); records for quality assurance purposes; animal performance and management records (milk yields, daily liveweight gain, feed consumption, feed conversion efficiency, reproductive efficiency, product quality information, basic financial figures). To be fully competent in record keeping, candidates need to become familiar with both paper-based and electronic systems.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Ideally the majority of this Unit should be delivered through practical classes on appropriate livestock units. For Outcome 1, key stock skills should be demonstrated prior to candidates gaining first hand experience. The assessment could be based on a practical test conducted on a one to one basis between the examiner and candidate. For Outcome 2 candidates could build up a portfolio of annotated diagrams of livestock equipment viewed on the livestock units which could be used as the basis of assessment. For Outcome 3, actual livestock records collected on the units could be used as the basis of teaching and assessment of Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit.

The Oral Communication component may be developed by activities used to generate evidence in Outcome 1, as part of candidates' demonstration of livestock husbandry skills. An on-farm assessment with suitable livestock is required, in which they must inspect the main attributes of an animal with respect to its physical competence, covering feet and legs, teeth and mouth, reproductive organs and udder. In so doing, they must simultaneously give a supplementary commentary, which will allow for exercise and development of oral communication skills. They must also explain whether they would retain the animal or not for future breeding.

The Written Communication component may be developed depending on the assessment instruments used for Outcomes 2 and 3, which could be a report and workbook, respectively.

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Numeracy* in this Unit. Both components, Using Number and Using Graphical Information may be developed particularly by activities used to generate evidence in Outcome 3. Candidates will be required to undertake calculations to determine physical and financial efficiency factors, and also to express milk yield in terms of a lactation curve.

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* as candidates will be required to work closely with others when handling stock, and in order to learn key husbandry skills.

Open learning

This Unit would not be suitable to be delivered by distance learning due to high practical content.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

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On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Perform a range of livestock husbandry skills.
- 2 Describe the function and use of livestock production equipment.
- 3 Explain the uses of livestock records and complete and organise records pertaining to livestock.

Within Outcome 1, through instruction, demonstration and finally hands on practical experience, you will gain competence in a range of skills such as milking, body condition scoring, weighing, footcare, injecting, dosing, ear tagging, livestock movement and handling, livestock transport, assisting with parturition, care of the newly-born animal.

Within Outcome 2 you will gain knowledge of the operation and functioning of various items of equipment such as recording equipment, handling equipment and livestock feeding equipment. Some knowledge, such as in the functions of milking plant or use of handling facilities, will be acquired mainly through practical experience.

Within Outcome 3 you will gain knowledge in the use of physical and financial records for enterprise management purposes and in calculation of some secondary performance measures. A range of livestock records will be covered including statutory records, records for quality assurance purposes, animal performance and management records. You will become familiar with both paper-based and electronic systems in order to be fully competent in this area.