



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Livestock Production Systems

Unit code: F2ED 34

Unit purpose: This Unit will equip candidates with a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the factors affecting demand and consumption of livestock products, different livestock production systems found in the UK and the components of these systems. The Unit may be suitable for candidates who are studying for a Group Award in an area related to agriculture, food or the rural economy.

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

- 1 Describe the demand for livestock products in the UK.
- 2 Describe selected systems of livestock production.
- 3 Describe the main components of livestock production systems.

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 at SCQF level 5 and Working with Others at SCQF level 4 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: Outcome 1 could be assessed by a closed book assessment consisting of a mix of short answer and restricted response questions. Outcomes 2 and 3 can either be assessed by reports or Outcome 3 could be assessed alone as a closed book assessment, consisting of a mix of short answer and restricted response questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Livestock Production Systems

Unit code: F2ED 34

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

Describe the demand for livestock products in the UK.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Livestock products
- ◆ Product quality criteria
- ◆ Consumer demand
- ◆ Value added products

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the basic quality criteria demanded by consumers for at least two of the following livestock products: beef, lamb, pork, milk, eggs
- ◆ explain consumer issues affecting the demand for at least two of the following livestock products: beef, lamb, pork, milk, eggs
- ◆ explain the role of food processing in creating demand for at least two named, value added products

Assessment Guidelines

It is suggested that this Outcome could be assessed by a closed book assessment consisting of a mix of approximately six short answer and restricted response questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Production Systems

Outcome 2

Describe selected systems of livestock production

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Dairy production systems
- ◆ Beef production systems
- ◆ Sheep production systems
- ◆ Pig production systems

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe a dairy production system
- ◆ describe a beef production system
- ◆ describe a sheep production system
- ◆ describe a pig production system

This Outcome will be assessed by the collection and reporting of information gathered on visits to farms. Farms will have been selected to demonstrate appropriate livestock production systems.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed either alone, or in conjunction with Outcome 3 via two or three reports (of 800 words or equivalent), based on farms visited.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Production Systems

Outcome 3

Describe the main components of livestock production systems

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Breeding and replacement policies
- ◆ Feeding strategies
- ◆ Health and welfare
- ◆ Housing, handling and waste management
- ◆ Marketing strategies

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe breeding policies, in terms of breed choice and season
- ◆ describe at least one feeding strategy which may be used for the purpose of livestock improvement
- ◆ explain options available with respect to replacement policies within production systems
- ◆ describe the use of health planning within production systems to optimise animal welfare
- ◆ describe typical housing and handling facilities required for cattle, sheep and pigs
- ◆ describe the management of wastes such as manure and silage effluent within livestock production systems
- ◆ describe differing marketing strategies available to livestock producers including adding value to products before they leave the farm

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed either alone, or in conjunction with Outcome 2 via two or three reports (of 800 words or equivalent), based on farms visited. Alternatively, if this Outcome is assessed separately, this could be by a closed book assessment consisting of a mix of approximately 20 short answer and restricted response questions.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2ED 34
Unit title: Livestock Production Systems
Superclass category: SH
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Livestock Production Systems

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

This Unit introduces candidates to the main systems of livestock production (in the UK) and provides an overview of all the main components of these systems. It also provides a background into the factors affecting consumption of these products and the role of food processing in creating demand.

Outcome 1 is designed to give candidates a sound overall knowledge of the relationship between demand factors and price and the various issues that affect consumer perception and consumption of livestock products.

Outcome 2 extends candidates' knowledge in terms of the range of livestock production systems found within the UK. The teaching and learning of this Outcome should incorporate several farm visits to illustrate the knowledge and skills first hand. Where asked to describe the various production systems, a beef production system could be for example, suckler cow or finishing, a sheep production system could be hill, upland or lowground, and a pig production system could be either indoor or outdoor.

Outcome 3 gives candidates a sound knowledge of the major components of those production systems viewed and studied within Outcome 2.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The delivery of this Unit could take the form of a mixture of lectures, tutorials and farm visits. Farm visits should be carefully selected to demonstrate good examples of the range of livestock production systems found within the UK. Candidates should be able to extract the necessary information during farm visits to adequately describe the production system present. Lectures should be used to explain the components of production systems in detail (Outcome 3) and tutorials would be highly beneficial if used to discuss the issues surrounding consumer demand. Where possible, candidates should also visit an example of a processing factory such as an abattoir or dairy processor to fully understand the position of the primary producer in the larger food chain.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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

Both the Oral and Written Communication components may be developed by candidates' collection of information during farm visits, which may be accomplished orally or otherwise. They may be asked to collate and summarise this information in reports. For example, some of information may be gained through the relevant questioning of farm owners and workers.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* depending on the activities used in the Unit. Candidates may work as a group when collecting the necessary information during farm visits, and develop skills at SCQF level 4.

Open learning

The Unit could be delivered by blended learning with Outcomes 1 and 3 delivered via distance learning in addition to some farm visits to cover Outcome 2.

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

Unit title: Livestock Production Systems

This Unit will introduce you to the main systems of livestock production in the UK for dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep and pigs. On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Describe the demand for livestock products in the UK
- 2 Describe selected systems of livestock production.
- 3 Describe the main components of livestock production systems

In Outcome 1 you will examine the demand for, and quality of a range of livestock products produced within livestock production systems. Consumer demand and its relationship with product price and opportunities to add value will be explored. Your understanding may be supplemented and enhanced by a visit to a food processor such as an abattoir or dairy processor, to emphasise the position of the primary producer in the food chain.

In Outcome 2 livestock production systems will be elucidated through farm visits. These will provide an opportunity for you to see appropriate examples in which you gain an understanding as to why the particular choice of system has been made, and how this suits the resources of the farm.

Within Outcome 3 you will examine the components of given production systems. You will gain an understanding of the importance of breeding and replacement policies, feeding strategies, health and welfare, housing, handling and marketing strategies in the efficient operation of a livestock production system.

During the course of this Unit there are opportunities for you to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at SCQF level 5 and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4.