

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

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NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number-	1180200	-Session-1990-91
-Superclass-	SH	

-Title-	LIVESTOCK REARING
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-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose	This module is designed to enable the student to develop the skills required to rear livestock. This would form a suitable base module for any livestock programme.
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It is aimed at those starting a programme of National Certificate modules within the land based sector.

Preferred Entry Level	No formal entry requirements.
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Outcomes	The student should: 1. rear a group of livestock; 2. identify normal appearance and behaviour in a group of livestock; 3. record the progress of a group of livestock.
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Assessment Procedures	Acceptable performance in the module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.
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The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory.)

OUTCOME 1 REAR A GROUP OF LIVESTOCK

- PCs
- (a) The provision of accommodation is suitable for the stock and in accordance with hygienic procedures.
 - (b) The provision of food and water is in accordance with given instructions.
 - (c) The identification of any unsuitable environmental conditions is correct and quickly reported.
 - (d) The handling of the livestock is effective with minimum stress.

IA Practical Exercise

The student will be presented with a practical exercise to test the application of knowledge and skills required to rear a group of livestock.

For the exercise, the student, under supervision will be allocated a group of livestock and all the facilities required for rearing the animals during the rearing period. The exercise will cover the following areas:

- (i) provision of accommodation;
- (ii) provision of food and water;
- (iii) identification of unsuitable environmental conditions;
- (iv) handling of livestock.

The assessment should be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all the Performance Criteria being met.

OUTCOME 2 IDENTIFY NORMAL APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOUR IN A GROUP OF LIVESTOCK

- PCs
- (a) The identification of normal appearance is correct.
 - (b) The identification of normal behaviour is correct.
 - (c) The recording of normal appearance and behaviour is clear and concise.
 - (d) The identification of any abnormal appearance or behaviour is accurate and quickly reported.

IA Log Book

The student will be expected to complete a log book to test the application of knowledge and skills required to record and report normal appearance and behaviour in a group of livestock over a period of time.

The student will be expected to complete the log book at regular intervals over the rearing period.

Satisfactory performance in this assessment will be demonstrated by the completion of a series of entries in the log book, overseen by the tutor, in which is given:

- (i) a record of identification of normal appearance;
- (ii) a record of identification of normal behaviour;
- (iii) a record of when abnormal appearance and/or behaviour occurs and is reported.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on the student meeting all the Performance Criteria.

OUTCOME 3 RECORD THE PROGRESS OF A GROUP OF LIVESTOCK

PCs

- (a) The weighing of a group of livestock is accurate.
- (b) The records of weight are complete and accurate.
- (c) The calculations of daily liveweight gain and feed conversion ratio are accurate.

IA Log Book

The student will be expected to complete a log book to test the application of knowledge and skills required to record the progress of a group of livestock.

The student will be expected to complete the log book at regular intervals over the rearing period.

Satisfactory performance in this assessment will be demonstrated by the completion of a series of entries in the log book, overseen by the tutor in which is given:

- (i) records of weight;
- (ii) calculation of daily liveweight gain and feed conversion ratios.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on the student meeting all the Performance Criteria.

**The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance.
They are not mandatory.**

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Safety regulations and safe working practices and procedures should be adhered to at all times.

This module should focus on practical exercises based around the rearing of a small group of livestock. The choice of stock might reflect the student's interests, but a wide selection is available, most of which would illustrate the principles involved.

Suitable examples might include chicks, ducklings, trout, calves, orphan lambs, piglets, rabbits, mice, rats, snails, frogs etc.

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

1. In preparing the rearing site, the students should find values for the environmental and other significant parameters and apply them to the practical exercise. To prevent stress/hazard to the stock careful supervision will be needed at all stages of this module, especially where the student is unfamiliar with livestock care. Instructions on feed quantities and feed routine will be clearly given.
2. The student should be looking for changes in appearance, behaviour and feeding habits. Record and report to supervisor.
3. Keep records of liveweight changes. Calculation of daily liveweight gain. Data on feed used. Calculation of FCR.

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

Small groups will probably be dictated by cost, but in any case, the size of the livestock group should be easily manageable by the students involved.

Relating to Outcomes:

1. The main intention of this module is for the student to "get the feel" of working with livestock. To this end it is imperative that they are involved from the very concept of the exercise and understand the importance of the decisions which are taken as to the type of livestock, the siting of the rearing unit, the system of rearing and other related matters. It is also most important that the student is closely involved in the preparation of the rearing unit/site before the livestock actually arrive.

In practice it is likely that the students will work in small groups, but it is essential that each student keeps an accurate and comprehensive Record Book and feels a personal share in the work.

2. The student should be responsible for making his own observations and reporting/ recording any unusual/abnormal appearance/behaviour.
3. Working in groups or individually weighings made at regular intervals and recorded.

Procedures involved in calculating DLWG and FCR should be demonstrated. Examples should be given.

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