



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Game Bird Rearing (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FN5H 11

Superclass: SH

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Summary

This Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

The Unit is suitable for candidates who wish to develop their skills and knowledge in game bird rearing from newly hatched chicks to poults, providing feeding which is appropriate to the age and stage of development and techniques to control and prevent vices and diseases.

Outcomes

- 1 Prepare brooder system to receive newly hatched game bird chicks.
- 2 Transfer newly hatched game bird chicks to brooder system.
- 3 Provide feed and water for game birds at different ages.
- 4 Fit a bit to control and prevent stress in young game birds.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience of game sporting activities.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Game Bird Rearing (SCQF level 5)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Prepare brooder system to receive newly hatched game bird.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify game bird brooder systems.
- (b) Prepare a game bird brooder system to receive newly hatched game bird chicks.
- (c) Provide feed and water to game birds appropriate to their.

Outcome 2

Transfer newly hatched game bird chicks to brooder system.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Handle and transfer game birds chicks in accordance with industry codes and good welfare practice.
- (b) Count game bird chicks into brooder system accurately.
- (c) Check feeders and drinkers effectively provide constant supply of food and water.
- (d) Monitor game bird behaviour.
- (e) Adjust the brooder system.

Outcome 3

Provide feed and water for game birds at different stages of development.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify feed types in relation to the age and species of game bird.
- (b) Provide feed and water in accordance with given instructions.
- (c) State the correct names for game birds at different stages of development.

Outcome 4

Fit a bit to control and prevent stress in young game birds.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select a bit appropriate for age and species of game bird.
- (b) Fit bit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

In relation to Outcome 1

Practical exercise — the candidate will identify two game bird rearing systems for Performance Criteria (a).

For Performance Criteria (b) brooder system must include:

- ◆ bio security of game bird rearing area
- ◆ suitable bedding material
- ◆ fitting appropriate surround
- ◆ fitting heat system at correct height and temperature
- ◆ placement of feeders and drinker in suitable locations within brooder system, using correct feeders and drinkers for age and species of reared game bird

In relation to Outcome 2

Practical exercise — the candidate will demonstrate skills required to transfer day old game bird chicks to a brooder system, count game bird chicks into brooder system, ensure feeders and drinkers are effective in ensuring a constant supply of food and water, make any required adjustments, identify two types of water drinker and two types of feeder system. Monitor game bird behaviour due to environment or biological requirements.

In relation to Outcome 3

Practical exercise for Performance Criteria (a) and (b) and a written/oral question for Performance Criteria (c) — candidates demonstrate knowledge relating to identification of feed types in relation to the age and breed of game bird to include: chick starter crumbs, mini pellets, grower pellets, poult pellets. State the names of game birds and feed type used at different stages of development.

In relation to Outcome 4

Practical exercise — the candidate will demonstrate skills required to prevent and control stress in young game birds by fitting bits. Candidates select and fit bits appropriate to game bird species. Candidate must:

- ◆ fit six bits to three game bird chicks at ten days
- ◆ fit six bits to three game birds at three weeks in accordance with codes of good practice and good welfare practices

National Unit specification: support notes

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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

Health and safety regulations, safe working practices and procedures and current codes of good practice should be observed at all times.

This Unit is aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards (NOS):

- ◆ CU2 Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety
- ◆ Ga8 Assist in the Care of Game Chicks
- ◆ Ga18 Rear Gamebirds for Release

Outcome 1

Candidates will develop their knowledge of the range of game rearing systems available, looking at the advantages and disadvantages of game bird rearing systems. Understand the construction and siting of rearing units in correct area, for example sheltered from the wind south facing and fresh dry ground. Candidates will also gain an understanding of materials used in preparing the game bird rearing unit, floor covering, bedding surrounds, heating system (gas/electricity) types of feeders and drinkers used from day old to seven week old. Prior to preparing each system candidates ensure systems are working correctly and at correct temperature and understand how to deduce temperature within rearing systems. Candidate identifies different types of brooder system to include gas, electric and should know the appropriate materials for the systems and how to prepare each system.

Outcome 2

Candidates should be aware of current legislation when handling game birds, developing skills and knowledge of techniques used to transfer game bird chicks from hatchery unit to rearing system, creates bedding for boxes, correct placement of chicks into rearing system, monitor newly placed chicks into rearing system to ensure all are well and that chicks show no signs of stress, make adjustments if required to restore correct conditions and behaviour of the game bird chicks.

Outcome 3

Candidates gain an understanding of the stages of game bird development from day old chick to seven week old, understand feeding behaviour and the range of feed used from chick crumbs, mini pellets, grower pellets, to poult pellets. Feeders/feeding regimes used in rearing game birds from day old to seven week old as well as the different types and styles of drinker.

Candidate should identify the stages of development and the most appropriate type of feed for that age and species of game bird.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 4

Candidates develop understanding of devices and techniques used to reduce stress and feather picking, reducing light into rearing unit, giving game birds more room/space in rearing system, bigger runs/fresh ground, fitting of bits.

Candidate should identify two types of bit commonly used on game birds, the age the bits are used. Candidates should be aware of what social vices these bits control.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Outcome 1

The candidate takes part in the preparation of one type of brooder system; candidate study various brooder systems and understand how to set these systems up. This can be achieved by visits to local sporting estates and game farms.

Outcome 2

The candidate should take part in transferring day old game bird chicks from storage area to brooder system; understand methods of handling and transferring day old game bird chicks to brooder system. This could be demonstrated by visiting local sporting estates and game farms.

Outcome 3

Candidate uses manufacturer's literature on the various types of game bird feed and also on site discussions and tutorials.

Outcome 4

Candidates identify and discuss the various social vices where bits would be required. The candidate will fit bits at 10 days old and 3 weeks old game bird chicks, simulated exercise could be used to familiarise candidates with the various types of bits and applicators, this could be also demonstrated by visiting local sporting estates and game farms.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for all of the Outcomes would be a series of practical exercises using a check list for all Outcomes together with restricted response question for Outcome 3 Performance Criteria (c).

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

This Unit could provide opportunities for the development of Working with Others, Problem Solving and Numeracy at SCQF 5 during the learning and teaching activities throughout the Unit.

This Unit has the Problem Solving component of Critical Thinking embedded in it, so when the candidate achieves this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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