



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Watering and Feeding (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FV9H 11

Superclass: SH

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Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to acquire the skills and knowledge to water and feed horses. The candidate will be able to recognise different feedstuffs and assist in preparation and feeding of horses. Current health and safety regulations and safe working practices will be adhered to all times.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult learners, school link pupils and for industry CPD.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe the rules of feeding and watering.
- 2 Feed horses concentrates using a feed chart.
- 3 Feed horses hay and its substitutes using a feed chart.
- 4 Identify and maintain horse watering systems.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience of handling horses.

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

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill component in this Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Describe the rules of feeding and watering.

Performance Criteria

- (a) List the rules of feeding and watering.
- (b) Explain the reasons for applying these rules when feeding and watering.

Outcome 2

Feed horses concentrates using a feed chart.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify common concentrates correctly.
- (b) Check concentrates for quality.
- (c) Explain the preparation of concentrates as appropriate to the feed type.
- (d) Assist with feeding horses using a feed chart.
- (e) Describe how horses may behave at feed time.
- (f) Describe appropriate storage of concentrates.
- (g) Clean and tidy after feeding.

Outcome 3

Feed horses hay and its substitutes using a feed chart.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and quality check hay and its substitutes.
- (b) Prepare hay and its substitutes according to a feed chart.
- (c) Explain the reasons for soaking hay.
- (d) Tie up a haynet safely.
- (e) Describe appropriate storage of hay and its substitutes.

Outcome 4

Identify and maintain horse watering systems.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe different methods of providing water for horses.
- (b) Carry out the daily maintenance of watering systems.
- (c) Explain the normal daily requirements of water in a range of situations.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

The candidate must provide written/oral/recorded evidence to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the rules of feeding. Evidence must be gathered under closed-book conditions.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ Identification of seven rules of feeding and watering from the list below:
 - Clean fresh water available at all times unless the horse is hot and tired. Limit water until horse has cooled down.
 - Feed little and often.
 - Feed according to work, temperament and condition.
 - Weigh feeds accurately.
 - Keep to a routine.
 - Do not work hard immediately after feeding.
 - Feed adequate roughage.
 - Introduce changes of food gradually.
 - Feed good quality feeds and forage.
 - Monitor the horse's condition daily.
 - Do not feed a hot tired horse until it has cooled off.
 - Clean feed buckets after use.
- ◆ A short explanation of the reasons behind the seven rules for feeding and watering the horse.

Outcome 2

Performance/oral/written/recorded evidence must be provided to show that the candidate has an understanding of how horses may behave at feed time also the reasons for correct storage of feeds, cleanliness of feed room and feeding utensils.

Performance evidence must be provided to demonstrate that the candidate can prepare feeds for a minimum of four horses following a feed chart.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ Identification of four commonly fed feedstuffs from:
 - sugarbeet, chaff, pony nuts, barley, oats, pasture mix or similar.
- ◆ An explanation of the meaning of straight feeds and compound feeds.
- ◆ A quality check of feedstuffs, which includes a description of what constitutes poor quality feeds.
- ◆ Accurate preparation of feedstuffs, including sugarbeet, according to the feed chart information.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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- ◆ Accurate weighing of feeds according to the feed chart information.
- ◆ The appropriate storage of feedstuffs according to type.
- ◆ A cleanliness check of feed storage area.
- ◆ A description of what damage is caused by vermin.
- ◆ A check for signs of vermin damage and report to supervisor.

Outcome 3

Performance oral/written or recorded evidence must be provided to show that the candidate can feed horses hay or haylage correctly and safely, using a feed chart.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ The identification of hay and its substitutes.
- ◆ Assessing the quality of hay and its substitutes by physical examination, by visual appearance and smell.
- ◆ An explanation of the reasons for soaking hay.
- ◆ A description of the correct storage of hay and its substitutes.
- ◆ Preparation of hay/haylage, by soaking or steaming, for the specified time according to the feed chart.
- ◆ Weighing haynets according to the feed chart.
- ◆ Tying up haynets safely in an appropriate area.
- ◆ A description of other methods of feeding hay and its substitutes including:
 - Feeding on the ground, in a rack and in haynets.
 - A description of one advantage and one disadvantage of two different feeding methods.
 - Safety, health of the horse and wastage should be a consideration in the advantages and disadvantages — otherwise leave as is.

Outcome 4

Performance and written/oral/recorded evidence is required.

Performance evidence must be provided to demonstrate that the candidate can water horses effectively and safely.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ The provision of an adequate supply of water according to the needs of the horse, candidates should know how much water a horse normally requires on a daily basis.
- ◆ A description of situations when a horse may need more or less water to include:
 - Weather.
 - Hay or haylage being fed.
 - Work situations (hot, sweaty and tired horses).
- ◆ A description of various watering systems to include: buckets, automatic drinkers.
- ◆ Safe use of the watering system employed.
- ◆ An examination of two watering systems to assess whether they are adequate to supply fresh drinking water.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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- ◆ A description of the safe maintenance requirements for a range of watering systems, to include cleanliness, checking of filling mechanisms.
- ◆ Effective and safe assistance in the maintenance of the watering system in use to include:
 - Monitoring, filling and cleaning.
- ◆ A description of the one advantage and one disadvantage of various watering systems.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Horse Care: Watering and Feeding (SCQF level 5)

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 will introduce candidates to the basic principles of watering and feeding horses. On completion of this Unit candidates will have the skills and knowledge to water and feed horses under supervision.

Candidates will understand the basic rules of feeding and watering. Recognition of feedstuffs and their quality — (straights, compounds, and bulk); storage and preparation of feeds; follow a feed chart and make up feeds accordingly. Ability to identify appropriate watering systems, do basic maintenance to them and monitor the horse's water intake.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horse Care at SCQF level 5. On completion of this Unit candidates can then progress onto *Watering and Feeding* (SCQF level 6) which will give the candidates a greater depth of underpinning knowledge and enable them to calculate diets for horses and feed them with minimal supervision.

This Unit aligns to the following National Occupational Standards from Lantra:

- ◆ LAN Eq 102 Assist with Feeding and Watering Horses
- ◆ LAN Eq 202 Provide Feed and Water to Horses
- ◆ LAN Eq304 Plan Diets and Implement Feeding Regimes for Horses

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult learners, school pupils and for industry CPD. On completion of this Unit candidates will have the knowledge to feed horses in various types of yards under supervision.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Knowledge of the basic rules of feeding should be introduced alongside an awareness of the horses' natural lifestyle and basic digestive processes. Classroom discussions and group investigations are a good way of teaching these.

Practical demonstrations on identification, checking and weighing of feeds could be used along with visits to local feed merchants. Critical examination of feed storage areas in various yards could be carried out. Observation of different horses' behaviour at feed times should take place and candidates could assist with feeding various horses.

Hay and its substitutes should be examined on visits to stables, storage facilities should be evaluated with regard to safety and effectiveness in maintaining the quality of the product. Students should carry out the filling, weighing, and safe securing of haynets. Discussions on other methods of feeding hay and its substitutes such as on the ground or in a rack should take place during these activities.

The candidate should examine a range of watering systems and assess their adequacy to supply fresh drinking water, their maintenance requirements and safety. They should know the quantity of water that a horse may drink in a day and discuss situations where the horse may require more or less water.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 could be assessed with a written/oral exercise, closed-book.

Outcome 2 could be assessed with a practical/oral exercise.

Outcomes 3 and 4 could be assessed with a practical/oral exercise and the candidate attainment could be recorded by means of an observation checklist completed by the lecturer.

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

In this Unit candidates will recognise different feedstuffs and assist in preparation and feeding of horses.

Candidates will:

- ◆ describe a variety of feeds and watering systems for horses and when these should be used
- ◆ select suitable feeds and watering systems for horses and explain their reasons for doing so
- ◆ select the correct amounts of food and water for horses using diagrams and charts
- ◆ weigh feeds and follow instructions to prepare feed for horses
- ◆ carry out group activities to water and feed horses.

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Numeracy, Communication, Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.

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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