



National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Unit code: H6RC 46

Superclass: NE

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable learners to understand the basic characteristics of a chosen domestic farm animal, aspects of husbandry and welfare, diseases that can affect them and their nutritional requirements. Learners will have the opportunity to raise their own animals, having produced a plan and considered the health and safety requirements. They will then be able to evaluate the success of their enterprise. The Unit is intended for learners who wish to work in agriculture/crofting and/or local food production.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Describe fundamental aspects of animal husbandry.
- 2 Raise animals.
- 3 Evaluate success.

Credit points and level

1.0 National Unit credit at SCQF level 6: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6)

Recommended entry to the Unit

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, learners would normally be expected to have attained one of the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ National 5 Biology
- ◆ NPA Crofting (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Hospitality and Catering (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Rural skills (SCQF level 5)

National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Learners taking this Unit do not need to have any prior knowledge of food production, however good practical skills in working with animals, particularly the chosen animal, would be an advantage.

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF level 5

Core Skill component None

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

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.

This Unit is included in the NPA in Local Food Production at SCQF level 6; however it can also be delivered as a free-standing Unit or as part of another relevant programme.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

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 fundamental aspects of animal husbandry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the basic characteristics of a chosen animal.
- (b) Describe the key husbandry and welfare requirements of a chosen animal.
- (c) Identify symptoms of common diseases, disorders and parasites of a chosen animal and how to treat them.
- (d) Describe the feeding requirements of a chosen animal.

Outcome 2

Raise animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Produce a plan for the raising of chosen animals.
- (b) Prepare the accommodation for the animals.
- (c) Check the health of the animals regularly and take appropriate action to remedy problems.
- (d) Ensure that the nutritional requirements of the animals are met.
- (e) Ensure that all health and safety requirements are met.

Outcome 3

Evaluate success.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Review the production process in relation to the plan.
- (b) Consider the success of the animal husbandry.
- (c) Review the success of dealing with health issues.
- (d) Evaluate the growth and quality of the animals.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate can:

- (a) Describe the following characteristics of the chosen animal:
 - ◆ Life stages
 - ◆ Local breeds
 - ◆ Reproduction
- (b) Describe a minimum of four key husbandry and welfare requirements of the chosen animal.
- (c) Describe the symptoms of and suitable treatments for a minimum of five common diseases, disorders and/or parasites in the chosen animal.
- (d) Describe the different feeding requirements of the chosen animal during adolescence, adulthood and motherhood.

Outcome 2

Direct observation or photographic and/or video evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate can:

- (a) Produce a plan, including a risk assessment, for raising the chosen animals over at least 5 months.
- (b) Prepare and maintain suitable accommodation for the animals.
- (c) Regularly check the health of the animals, take appropriate action to remedy problems and keep accurate records.
- (d) Ensure that the nutritional requirements of the animals are met and accurate records are kept.
- (e) Ensure that all relevant Health and Safety requirements are met with reference to the risk assessment.

Outcome 3

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate can:

- (a) Review the production process in relation to the plan and highlight any changes to the plan, with explanations.
- (b) Consider the success of the animal husbandry.
- (c) Review the success of dealing with health issues, with reference to the health and treatment records kept.
- (d) Evaluate the growth and quality of the animals, with reference to the feeding records kept.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

This Unit lends itself to a holistic assessment where the animals selected for Outcome 1 are raised in Outcome 2 and the records produced in Outcome 2 inform the evaluation required in Outcome 3.

An integrated portfolio of evidence could be produced to provide evidence for all three outcomes.



National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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

Suggested topics and themes that could be covered in this Unit are given below for each outcome.

Outcome 1: Describe fundamental aspects of animal husbandry.

- (a) Describe the following characteristics of the chosen animal:
- ◆ The life stages of the chosen animal should be identified and the learners should be able to recognise them with confidence.
 - ◆ A survey of the characteristics of local and any other suitable breeds.
 - ◆ The reproductive biology of the chosen animal to include reproductive structures, breeding cycles and birth.
- (b) Describe a minimum of four key husbandry and welfare requirements of the chosen animal:
- ◆ Learners should be able to describe the fundamental requirements for the chosen animals in order to ensure good animal welfare.
 - ◆ The Five Freedoms of animal welfare should be discussed (Farm Animal Welfare Council — FAWC).
- (c) Describe the symptoms of and suitable treatments for a minimum of five common diseases, disorders and/or parasites in the chosen animal:
- ◆ Learners should be able to recognise the symptoms of at least five of the most common diseases affecting the chosen animal (for example, in sheep: foot rot, pneumonia and listeriosis, mineral deficiency diseases such as swayback and grass staggers, as well as parasitic diseases such as looping ill, liver fluke and scab).
- (d) Describe the different feeding requirements of the chosen animal during adolescence, adulthood and motherhood:
- ◆ Consideration should be given to the time of year during which the animals will be kept and also where they will be kept (eg housed or outside) and learners should therefore be able to describe their feeding requirements according to how the animals will be kept.
 - ◆ An understanding that feeding requirements change at different life stages is expected.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Outcome 2: Raise animals.

- (a) Produce a plan, including a risk assessment, for raising the chosen animals over at least five months:
- ◆ Learners should produce a detailed plan for the raising of the chosen animals for a period of at least five months.
 - ◆ It would be expected that there will be partnership working with a local farmer/crofter (or other professional) as the learners will have limited time available to care for the animals. The plan will therefore need to make clear the responsibilities of the learner and the part to be played by the farmer/crofter.
 - ◆ It must be remembered that ensuring the welfare of the animals is essential.
 - ◆ The scale of the animal raising enterprise will reflect the facilities and the time available.
 - ◆ Whilst desirable, it will not be necessary to continue the enterprise to the natural end point of the animals going to market or producing their offspring if the timing of the academic year does not allow this.
 - ◆ A risk assessment must be prepared by the learner and approved by the teacher/tutor.
- (b) Prepare and maintain suitable accommodation for the animals:
- ◆ Learners will be expected to ensure that the accommodation for the animals has been suitably prepared, for example that fences have been checked and repaired as necessary.
- (c) Regularly check the health of the animals, take appropriate action to remedy problems and keep accurate records:
- ◆ Regular health checks should be carried out by the learners, under supervision, and the appropriate action taken to remedy problems.
 - ◆ Accurate records should be kept throughout and photographs could be taken to provide a visual record of ailments encountered.
- (d) Ensure that the nutritional requirements of the animals are met and accurate records are kept:
- ◆ Regular checks on the condition of the animals should be made and the learners should regularly reassess their feeding regime.
 - ◆ Accurate records should be kept throughout and photographs could be taken to provide a visual record of the animals condition.
- (e) Ensure that all relevant Health and Safety requirements are met with reference to the risk assessment:
- ◆ The learners should follow the prepared risk assessment and must comply with all relevant Health and Safety legislation.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Outcome 3: Evaluate success.

- (a) Review the production process in relation to the plan and highlight any changes to the plan, with explanations:
 - ◆ The learners should review the extent to which the raising of the animals adhered to the original plan.
 - ◆ It is to be expected that circumstances will have arisen that would have resulted in the plan being changed — these changes and the reasons for the change should be recorded and their success considered.
- (b) Consider the success of the animal husbandry:
 - ◆ The success of each process involved in the raising of the animals should be considered in relation to the outcome achieved.
- (c) Review the success of dealing with health issues, with reference to the health and treatment records kept:
 - ◆ A review of the success in dealing with any health issues that affected the animals should be carried out by the learners.
- (d) Evaluate the growth and quality of the animals, with reference to the feeding records kept:
 - ◆ An assessment of the quality of the animals should be made
 - ◆ Measurements and photographs should be used wherever possible.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This is primarily a practical Unit which includes the preliminaries of planning and concludes with the evaluation of success. The practical work involves the raising of a number of animals for food of suitable breed and according to the local conditions and facilities available.

This Unit should only be undertaken if at the outset there is the potential for the learner to raise a number of animals, in partnership with a farmer, crofter or other professional, to nationally approved standards of welfare.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Outcome 1 is intended to give a grounding in the husbandry of the chosen animal as well as providing some basic, relevant biological background. Ensuring the welfare of the animals is of paramount importance and it will be necessary to work with a farmer, crofter or other professional who can provide the expertise and 'out of hours' care of the animals. It would be expected that the 'partner' would be involved in the planning stages of the enterprise and also in training the learners in the husbandry techniques.

It is essential that the learners have a feel for the breed characteristics of the chosen animal, that they understand the reproductive biology of the animal together with its nutritional requirements and health issues.

This Outcome is likely to involve a mixture of practical activities and classroom research, preferably with the classroom element used to reinforce the lessons learnt in the field, rather than the other way around. The classroom activities could be a combination of teaching and guided research, with the potential for learners to feed back their findings to their peers.

In **Outcome 2**, learners have the opportunity to raise their chosen animals over a period of at least 5 months and to tend to them to achieve the best possible quality of animal. This will only be achieved if sufficient planning is carried out and that the plans reflect the facilities and time that are available. The learners must therefore be fully conversant with the facilities that are available to them and also are realistic about what they will be able to achieve. They will be working in partnership with a farmer/crofter or other 'professional' and they must therefore plan how the animal's welfare will be catered for in the time that they have available and also at other times by their 'partner'.

Part of the plan must include a risk assessment of the activities that they will carry out and this should be approved by the Tutor, ensuring that it complies with all relevant health and safety regulations.

The learners will put into practice what they have learnt in Outcome 1, paying careful attention to the nutritional requirements and health of the animals, taking the necessary steps to take whatever action is required. It is important that they maintain detailed and accurate records throughout the production period.

Ideally the animals will be taken through to the natural end point of the animals going to market or producing their offspring, however the timing of the academic year may not allow for this.

Outcome 3 involves an evaluation of the production process and there must be time available at the end of the Unit to allow for detailed evaluation to be undertaken.

The evaluation should provide an opportunity to reflect on the original plan and to review the extent to which the production process adhered to the original plan. Where changes were made, an explanation for the reasons behind them should be given. The learners should make reference to their records in order to evaluate the success of their husbandry, the success of the feeding regime and the how they dealt with diseases and ailments. Finally they must make an evaluation of the overall quality of their animals, whether that be animals taken to market or whatever stage they have reached.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Outcome 1: Describe fundamental aspects of animal husbandry.

The key aspects of animal husbandry could be presented in separate reports or in a single report. The report(s) could be in the form of a written document, a detailed poster or a recorded oral presentation to the group.

Outcome 2: Raise animals

A Production Plan could be presented in the form of a written document. This will be followed through during the raising of the animals and will be referred to in the evaluation. Detailed records of the husbandry, including the feeding regime and disease control measures must be presented as a working document.

Outcome 3: Evaluate success

The evaluation of the whole process could take the form of a written document, a detailed poster or a recorded oral presentation to the group.

Whatever form the reports take, they must reflect the level of the qualification at SCQF level 6.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Problem Solving and Working with Others* all at SCQF level 6.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

The evidence generated for **Outcome 1** and the planning aspect of **Outcome 2** could provide opportunities to develop either the Written or Oral component of *Communication* and the Using Numbers component of *Numeracy*.

The research elements of Outcomes 1 and 2 could provide opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* (both Accessing Information and Providing/Creating Information components).

The practical elements of this Unit (Outcome 2) will provide opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.

In addition to the Core Skills noted above there may also be opportunities to develop other essential skills, especially in the context of this Unit, in Employability and Sustainable Development.

This Unit has the Core Skill of Problem Solving embedded in it, so when candidates achieve this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show that they have achieved Problem Solving at SCQF Level 5.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Primary Food Production: Animal Husbandry

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to provide you with the opportunity to undertake practical work in raising a number of animals for food, in order to help you to develop practical skills and knowledge for working in animal husbandry and food production.

In **Outcome 1** you will develop background knowledge of the biology and characteristics of an animal of your choice that is raised for food, animal husbandry including disease control and satisfying the nutritional requirements of the animals. **Outcome 2** is essentially the practical component where you will raise your chosen animals, using appropriate husbandry techniques, having first prepared a detailed Production Plan. You will keep detailed and accurate records throughout the production process. In **Outcome 3** you will evaluate the success of the production, referring back to your original plan and using your records.

You will have the opportunity to carry out independent research throughout the Unit, particularly in **Outcome 1**, and then to report back your findings to your peers. The Unit will be assessed outcome by outcome and you will be required to produce separate reports to summarize your findings. The **Outcome 2** report will be in the form of a Production Plan, where you will outline how you will raise your animals, and your detailed records of your actual production process. The **Outcome 3** report will be an evaluation of the process and will refer back to your original plan.

The reports could be in a variety of forms, for instance a written document, a detailed poster or a recorded oral presentation to the group. You will need to consider what would be the most appropriate format to convey your findings from each outcome.