

Scottish Progression Award  
in Rural Skills





If you are interested in working in the rural sector you might be interested in the Scottish Progression Award (SPA) in Rural Skills. The SPA in Rural Skills is an introductory award which will provide you with knowledge of the rural sector and the basic practical skills needed to work in rural industries.

This new qualification is a vocational programme for young people, for people who aren't in employment, or for anyone who's interested in a career in the rural skills sector. The SPA will equip you with the basic practical skills, knowledge and understanding you'll need to work in the sector. It will develop your knowledge of the needs of the rural sector, the range of occupations open to you and the issues facing the sector and their broad impact on Scottish life.



Achievement of the SPA will help you to progress to more advanced qualifications in a range of areas, such as, forestry, horticulture, agriculture and equine studies.

## Benefits of doing the SPA in Rural Skills

The SPA has been designed to:

- provide you with a way of getting a nationally-recognised qualification
- give you hands-on experience of the rural sector
- give you a knowledge and understanding of the rural sector and the changing nature of rural industries
- link to other qualifications including SVOs
- help with career progression

## More about the SPA in Rural Skills

The SPA in Rural Skills is a very flexible award. It is made up of two mandatory Units – Countryside Land Use and Estate Maintenance: an Introduction – and a broad range of optional Units in the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Animal Care
- Equine
- Fish Farming
- Forestry
- Gamekeeping
- Hard Landscaping
- Horticulture

To achieve the SPA in Rural Skills you must complete the two mandatory Units and four optional Unit credits from the groupings listed above.

Depending on the resources of the centre at which you undertake the award, you will have the opportunity to specialise in any of the above areas by taking, for example, four credits in one area or you might wish to broaden your knowledge and skills and select four credits from across the areas identified.

## What are Scottish Progression Awards?

This qualification is one of a number of Scottish Progression Awards (SPAs) offered by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). SPAs are a good way to get yourself started on the road to getting a qualification that recognises the skills and knowledge which you use in your work – skills you'll gain during work placement or work experience.

You can study to build up the knowledge and understanding at a college, school, or a training centre.

## Further informaton

If you would like to find out more about the SPA in Rural Skills, please call SQA's Customer Contact Centre on: 0845 279 1000 or e-mail: [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk).



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