



**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION****STATEMENT OF STANDARDS****UNIT NUMBER:** 1183013**UNIT TITLE:** CONTRIBUTE TO PROVIDING GRAZING AND WATER

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

**OUTCOME (ELEMENT OF COMPETENCE)**

1. PROVIDE GRASS AND WATER FOR GRAZING LIVESTOCK

**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- (a) Relevant legislation and Codes of Practice are complied with.
- (b) Livestock are regularly checked and results reported to supervisor.
- (c) Field boundaries are checked for security and action is taken when deficiencies occur.
- (d) The availability and appearance of grazing and the water supply are checked and observations reported promptly to supervisor.
- (e) Information is provided to enable records to be completely accurately.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

Any grazing livestock.

Legislation: relevant; current.

Checked for: numbers; grazing area; normal and abnormal behaviour.

Action taken: report observations; emergency action.

Checks water: quantity of water; contamination of water; palatability of water.

Checks grazing: quantity; contamination.

Records: required by legislation; required for management purposes.

Communication of data: verbal; written.

**EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS****PERFORMANCE EVIDENCE**

Competence to be demonstrated for all the performance criteria for the range stated.

Evidence will be collected by direct observation of work activities for one class of livestock.

**KNOWLEDGE EVIDENCE**

1. Legislative requirements in the context of the element for the specified class of livestock and a statement of reasons for compliance.
2. Reasons for inspecting and checking the condition of livestock, grazing, water supplies and boundaries.
3. Key observable features of normal and abnormal livestock behaviour.
4. Identification characteristics of palatable grass and water.
5. Reasons for providing accurate information and effective communication.

-----

**ASSESSMENT RECORDS**

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the SQA assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should be kept. These records will be available for external verification.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

In certain cases, modified outcomes and range statements can be proposed for certification. See references at end of Support Notes.

© Copyright SQA 1993

Please note that this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that:

- (i) no profit is derived from the reproduction;
- (ii) if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION****SUPPORT NOTES**

**UNIT NUMBER** 1183013

**UNIT TITLE** CONTRIBUTE TO PROVIDING GRAZING AND WATER

**SUPPORT NOTES:** This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

**NOTIONAL DESIGN LENGTH:** SQA allocates a notional design length to a unit on the basis of time estimated for achievement of the stated standards by a candidate whose starting point is as described in the access statement. The notional design length for this unit is 20 hours. The use of notional design length for programme design and timetabling is advisory only.

**PURPOSE** The purpose of this module is to enable candidates to develop basic skills relating to the provision of grazing and water for livestock.

SQA publishes summaries of NC units for easy reference, publicity purposes, centre handbooks, etc. The summary statement for this unit is as follows:

On completion of this half-module, the candidate should be able to contribute towards providing grass and water to an identified class of livestock to meet the requirements of legislation and Codes of Practice. He/she should be able to make temporary repairs to field boundaries in an emergency to contain livestock in the area. He/she should determine availability of fresh water and grass on a day-by-day basis and understand the value of recording information regarding the livestock to enable the value of the grazing to be ascertained.

**CONTENT/CONTEXT** The candidates should be introduced to the unit through covering the legislation and Codes of Practice which are relevant to grazing livestock. This could be carried out in a classroom situation when the content of the unit and forms of assessment are discussed with the candidates. The most important part concerning legal and welfare matters will be the movement of livestock within the farm and on the public highway with or without the assistance of a dog.

Instruction should be given to check livestock numbers with and without additional help of staff or dog. Numbers confirmed and observations of livestock needing attention from the tutor/trainer are reported as soon as possible with means of identification. Observations should cover disorders associated with livestock at grass, change of behaviour particularly in stock in season or approaching parturition, injury through bullying or contact with barbed wire, worrying by stray dogs.

The requirements of an identified class of grazing livestock are covered in the practical situation supported through informative notes and work-sheets. The difference between sheep and cattle fencing is explained giving reasons in the number and type of strands required. The function of the scare fence is described. Common faults requiring immediate temporary repair are identified for fences and gates with practical instruction given at the same time where possible.

An appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of the drystone dyke and the type of on-the-spot repair should be given where appropriate.

Internal field divisions where controlled grazing is practised should be included. The candidate at this level should be encouraged to assist in the moving of such a fence (normally electric) and appreciate the area of fresh pasture given each time to the livestock.

An outline of the main grazing systems should be covered to explain set stocking, rotational grazing, strip grazing with examples examined at own or other farms.

The natural growth-pattern of grass is explained and an appreciation given regarding effect of fertiliser application and changes in species can extend the season. Suitability of grass for the class of grazing livestock should also be outlined depending on the system in practice.

Reasons for rejection of grass in intensive systems should be explained and remedial treatment outlined.

The various methods of supplying water through trough, access to stream, transportable tank and the siting of such facilities should be described in a classroom situation before checking in the field. Faults requiring emergency attention particularly with piping and connections should be identified and temporary repairs demonstrated. Knowledge of the siting and function of stop-cocks is advantageous at this level.

Water purity must be stressed with dangers of stagnation, contamination by excreta or crop chemical explained, particularly if it is not mains water.

Records should be established to record all treatments applied over the season in quantity and timing, stock carry of individual fields so that the capacity of the individual fields can be assessed by management.

**APPROACHES TO GENERATING EVIDENCE** At this early stage of a candidate's training he/she should show willingness to be involved when with other staff or fellow candidates. He/she should be aware that the safe herding of livestock requires team effort especially animals not used to being handled. This willingness and awareness should be matched with an aptitude towards working with livestock in a humane way. The tutor/trainer should take these factors into account when assessing the candidate while performing practical tasks.

This unit depends very much on the powers of observation of the candidate (awareness) in identifying animals needing attention, in confirming there are more missing, in checking the fence/boundary security, in assessing quality and quantity of grazing and water. These checks can be done on a group basis initially but the individual must be allowed the opportunity to carry out these duties on his/her own.

Record keeping could be restricted to the events in one field of grass regarding treatment and grazing periods over a season or the grazing required by one group of livestock over the same length of time where rotational grazing is practised.

**ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES** Centres may use the instruments of assessment which are considered by tutor/trainers to be the most appropriate. Wherever possible observation of candidate performance should provide evidence for assessment purposes. Examples of instrument of assessment which could be used are as follows:

**OUTCOME 1** Practical exercises will form the main part of the assessment of this unit. These will include checklists especially where the power of observation is the main skill. The skill of moving livestock should be assessed on the candidate's ability to co-ordinate his/her efforts with the team when appropriate. The skills associated with the temporary repair of a boundary fence, wall or gate or with the movement of an electric fence should carry a reasonable time-limit at this elementary level. The main aim is to prevent livestock from escaping.

The assistance of a trained dog should be allowed where this is appropriate for the identified class of grazing stock.

The observations regarding livestock, boundaries, daily availability of grass and water, malfunction of water supply could be assessed through the oral mode with the tutor/trainer regarded as the supervisor in a role play situation. There may not be time to assess all aspects but this would be a practical way of assessing communication skills when these observations are discussed. Reasons explaining action taken could be given at the same time.

Where time is limited, questionnaires should be devised in particular to assess the candidate's knowledge regarding legislation, Codes of Practice, abnormal behaviour in livestock. Where the candidate is still dependent on other staff such knowledge should not be to any depth but regarded at an elementary level. A simple log-book approach would be a satisfactory way of assessing accurate recording of information regarding grazing livestock.

**PROGRESSION** This unit may contribute to the SVQs in Agriculture and Commercial Horticulture. Candidates may progress to unit 1183183 Provide Grazing and Water.

**RECOGNITION** Many SQA NC units are recognised for entry/recruitment purposes. For up-to-date information see the SQA guide 'Recognised and Recommended Groupings'.

## REFERENCES

1. Guidelines for Module Writers.
2. SQA's National Standards for Assessment and Verification.
3. For a fuller discussion on assessment issues, please refer to SQA's Guide to Assessment.
4. Procedures for special needs statements are set out in SQA's guide 'Students with Special Needs'.

© Copyright SQA 1993

Please note that this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that:

- (i) no profit is derived from the reproduction;
- (ii) if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.