



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Game Bird Production and Hatchery (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FN5G 11

Superclass: SH

Publication date: July 2011

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is suitable for candidates who wish to develop their skills and knowledge in game bird laying stock, egg handling, and incubation and hatchery practice.

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

Outcomes

- 1 Assist in the construction and preparation of game bird laying pens.
- 2 Catch up game bird laying stock.
- 3 Carry out routine feeding, watering and egg handling of game bird laying stock.
- 4 Outline the main factors affecting hatchability of game bird eggs.
- 5 Carry out routine game bird hatchery operations.

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 Production and Hatchery (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

Assist in the construction and preparation of game bird laying pens.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain factors to be taken into consideration when selecting a laying pen site.
- (b) Assist in the construction of a laying pen.
- (c) Prepare a laying pen.

Outcome 2

Catch up game bird laying stock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Construct, position and prepare game bird catcher.
- (b) Select game bird breeding stock.
- (c) Handle and transport game bird breeding stock to laying pen.
- (d) Prepare stock game birds for laying pen.

Outcome 3

Carry out routine feeding, watering and egg handling of game bird laying stock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the need to change feed from maintenance to breeders ration.
- (b) Provide feed and water appropriate to game bird laying stock in terms of nutritional requirements and in accordance with given instruction.
- (c) Collect, sanitise and store graded game bird eggs.

Outcome 4

Outline the main factors affecting hatchability of game bird eggs.

Performance Criteria

- (a) State the incubation periods for game bird eggs.
- (b) Explain how game bird breeder stock management affects the hatchability of game bird eggs.
- (c) Describe the factors affecting the hatchability of game bird eggs.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 5

Carry out routine game bird hatchery operations.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Prepare incubator to receive eggs.
- (b) Place game bird eggs within incubator.
- (c) Monitor eggs in incubator.
- (d) Candle eggs effectively.
- (e) Demonstrate the removal of newly hatched game bird chicks.
- (f) Maintain hatchery records.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

In relation to Outcome 1

Written/oral question identifying the range of factors that must be taken into consideration in site selection for Performance Criteria (a).

Practical exercise for Performance Criteria (b) and (c) — the candidate will assist in the construction of a game bird laying pen covering light, drainage, shelter, suitable cover, nesting sites feeders, appropriate food and drinkers suitable for laying pen use.

In relation to Outcome 2

Practical exercise for all Performance Criteria — the candidate will construct, position and prepare a game bird catcher appropriate to game species, select the appropriate game bird to be used as laying stock in relation to sex, age, general condition and wellbeing, handle caught game bird species minimising stress and damage to game bird, prepare game birds in terms of technique appropriate to sex and species.

In relation to Outcome 3

Written/oral question for Performance Criteria (a) — the candidate describes the need to change food types from maintenance to a breeders ration.

Practical exercise for Performance Criteria (b) and (c) — the candidate follows given instruction to supply food and water, collects, sanitises, grades and stores game bird eggs in accordance with given instructions.

In relation to Outcome 4

Written/oral question for Performance Criteria (a), (b) and (c) — the candidate states the correct incubation periods for Pheasant, Grey Partridges, Red Legged Partridges and Mallard. Describe how game bird eggs must be incubated to produce healthy chicks, correct sanitisation of equipment, eggs, temperature and humidity within incubator and hatcher, eggs being turned daily manually or automatically. Explains how breeder flock management affects hatchability of game bird eggs, poor quality of feed and water, parasite infestations and environmental conditions.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Production and Hatchery (SCQF level 5)

In relation to Outcome 5

Practical exercise for Performance Criteria (a), (b), (c) and (d) — the candidate prepares incubator ensuring both incubator and hatcher are running at correct temperature and humidity, following manufactures instruction, place eggs within egg trays in correct position, place full trays within incubator monitor daily, candle eggs prior to transferring to hatcher, remove infertile eggs, monitor until day of taking hatched chicks.

Project for Performance Criteria (e) — Candidates record information on four game bird hatches covering: eggs placed in incubator, number of unfertile and fertile eggs candled out, fertile eggs transferred to hatcher, fit and healthy chicks boxed up, dead in shell and unsuitable chicks.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Game Bird Production and Hatchery (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 is aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards (NOS):

- ◆ Ga6 Assist in the Production of Fertile Game Eggs
- ◆ Ga7 Assist in the Production of Game Chicks
- ◆ CU2 Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety

Outcome 1

Identification of suitable areas for construction of game bird laying pens, taking into account methods of penning game bird stock birds. Examples of laying pens for example large flock mating pen. Understanding the need for shelter, dry ground, south facing to gain maximum light, care within the laying pen.

Outcome 2

Knowledge of types of game bird catchers available and their methods of construction. The suitability of these for the number of game birds required, amount of time available, materials required, and setting up procedures. Checking game birds for physical damage and body condition. The types of wing brail and spectacles, fitting of wing brail and spectacles. Awareness of the necessity to undertake these operations prior to penning game bird laying pens.

Outcome 3

Identifying the need for nutritional change in the diet of game bird breeder stock, supplying food/water as directed, frequency of collecting game bird eggs is fully understood, the sanitising of game bird eggs, grading large, small, chalky, damaged and soft shell prior to washing, storing eggs within storage area in correct conditions maintaining hatchability of eggs.

Outcome 4

The processes of incubation, candidates have knowledge of temperature/humidity requirements, the incubation periods of Pheasant, Mallard duck, Grey Partridge and Red Legged Partridge. Awareness of the factors affecting hatchability including game bird flock management egg handling.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 5

Knowledge of steps involved in preparation of the incubator and hatcher to include disinfection / fumigation, setting temperature and humidity level for game bird eggs to be incubated effects of ventilation, egg position. Candling eggs prior to transferring to hatcher, selection and culling of abnormal and unsuitable game bird chicks, counting, packing and despatching day old game bird chicks, materials available for packing game bird chicks to acceptable technique. Hatcher records to include number of eggs placed in incubator, number of eggs candled out (infertile eggs), dead in shell and healthy game bird chicks

Further information can be gained from Code of practice for the welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes published by defra.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Outcome 1

Some formal teaching may be necessary to explain the principals of game bird flock management, and the principles of game bird incubation and hatchery, the candidate should also follow an activity based approach seeking guidance at each stage.

The candidates should assist in the design and in the preparation and building of a laying pen as part of a group activity each procedure should be explained, demonstrated and followed by supervised participation on the part of the candidates ensuring that all members of the group participate in all aspects of the work.

The concept of the habitat and environment requirements within a game bird laying pen should be developed by the tutor. This may be enhanced through visits to local sporting estates and game farms.

Outcome 2

The candidates should build catchers.

Explanation of methods of selection and preparation of game bird stock birds for the laying pen techniques in handling and transporting should also be demonstrated.

Outcome 3

Formal lectures on the nutritional requirements of game birds breeding stock and the consequent need for change of diet. Visits to local sporting estates and game farms/ hatcheries where candidates should participate in game bird egg collection washing, grading and storing.

Outcome 4/5

Formal lectures on incubation periods, principles of incubation, hatchery practices and game bird flock management. The majority of the teaching/instruction/training will take place in supervised practical situations. The candidate should be involved at all stages, participating in a variety of roles.

Visits to hatcheries with different facilities would show the range of buildings, materials and equipment available and used in practice.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for Outcome 1 would be written/oral for Performance Criteria (a) and Practical exercise for Performance Criteria (b) and (c).

Outcome 2

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for Outcome 2 would be a practical exercise for all Performance Criteria.

Outcome 3

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for Outcome 3 would be a written/oral question for Performance Criteria (a) and practical exercise for Performance Criteria (b) and (c).

Outcome 4

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for Outcome 4 would be a written/oral question for all Performance Criteria.

Outcome 5

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for Outcome 5 would be a practical exercise for Performance Criteria (a), (b) and (c) and a project for Performance Criteria (d).

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.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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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