



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Livestock: An Introduction

Unit code: H097 10

Superclass: SH

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with the ability to recognise a range of agricultural livestock and their uses. Candidates will also experience basic husbandry skills for two species of agricultural livestock as well as identify ways of monitoring health and wellbeing. It is intended for those with limited or no prior knowledge and experience of livestock and should enable candidates to progress onto other livestock Units which provide more in-depth knowledge and experience.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4. It can also be delivered as a free-standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe the features of a range of livestock.
- 2 Assist with the daily upkeep of livestock.
- 3 Assist in monitoring health and well-being of livestock.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Livestock: An Introduction

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 components in this Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Livestock: An Introduction

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 features of a range of livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe livestock and their offspring.
- (b) Describe the purpose of the livestock.
- (c) Describe methods of safe and humane treatment of livestock.

Outcome 2

Assist with the daily upkeep of livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assist in the provision of feed and water.
- (b) Assist in the provision of clean and safe environmental conditions.
- (c) Work in a safe and humane manner.

Outcome 3

Assist in monitoring health and well-being of livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe methods of assessing health and well-being.
- (b) Assist in monitoring the health and wellbeing of individual animals.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock: An Introduction

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

There is opportunity to integrate all Outcomes and evidence gathered through holistic assessment.

Safety regulations and safe working practice must be adhered to at all times during practical sessions. Codes of practice and legal constraints regarding young people working with livestock must be observed.

There will be an emphasis on safe working practices at all times and, as the candidate is only required to assist in tasks, work must be closely supervised and within a suitable candidate to instructor ratio.

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

Outcome 1: Written /oral and performance evidence for two species of livestock must be recorded under closed-book conditions. Evidence must include the following:

- ◆ Name the correct species of animal.
- ◆ Name the offspring from animal.
- ◆ Identify male and female animals in livestock groups.
- ◆ Describe two main external anatomical differences in male and female animals:
 - reproductive organs
 - appearance.
- ◆ Describe why the animal is farmed. To include:
 - primary use (eg meat, milk, breeding etc).
- ◆ Describe a possible product obtained from the animal.
- ◆ Describe the process involved in obtaining product.
- ◆ Describe methods of safe and humane treatment of livestock. To include:
 - food and water — describing the typical diet and constant provision of clean drinking water for each species.
 - habitat — describing typical housing environment for each species
 - handling — describing typical handling methods and apparatus used.

Outcome 2: Performance evidence is required. Evidence for each of the Performance Criteria will apply for two species of livestock. Candidates must:

- ◆ assist in providing the correct amount of feed.
- ◆ check and maintain water supply.
- ◆ assist with checking for areas in need of repair.
- ◆ assist with checking for cleanliness.
- ◆ assist with maintaining cleanliness.
- ◆ wear all personal protective equipment required.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Candidates must show that they can undertake tasks with due care and attention in order to limit stress levels of animals.

Outcome 3: Written/oral and performance evidence is required gathered under open-book conditions for two species:

Describe five methods of checking animals' health. To include:

- ◆ Appetite — is the animal eating or not?
- ◆ Breathing — is it normal or heavy and labored?
- ◆ Appearance — bright eyes, standing well or withdrawn and isolated from group?
- ◆ Movement — is it moving well or limping.
- ◆ Dung or droppings — are they of the correct consistency?

Assist in monitoring health and wellbeing of animals using the five methods described above. Healthy, normal behaviour or unhealthy, abnormal behavior must be pointed out and explained in relation to each of the points above.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Livestock: An Introduction

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

Outcome 1

This Outcome requires the candidate to investigate two species of livestock in order to gain the information specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates should experience the livestock in their physical environment so multiple site visits and talks with industry professionals are recommended. This will also introduce them to some of the aspects of working with animals prior to undertaking Outcome 2.

Examples of common agricultural livestock should be used such as:

- ◆ cattle
- ◆ sheep
- ◆ pigs.

However, any livestock species could be used if deemed relevant by the delivering centre. Candidates are required to visually identify livestock and their offspring. Seasonality should be taken into consideration so candidates can see physical examples of offspring. If this is not available, candidates' should still be expected to identify offspring. For example, cattle produce calves and sheep produce lambs.

Candidates are also expected to be able to identify male and female examples of each species and describe external anatomical differences such as:

- ◆ the reproductive organs
- ◆ the appearance (eg difference in size).

The reasons for farming the two livestock examples should also be investigated which should include the primary use (eg milk, beef) in relation to providing an income for the farmer. Other uses should be included such as producing offspring for future breeding. Basic processes involved in obtaining the products should be learned and described. For example, that in order to get meat from an animal, it must be sold through a market or agent and slaughtered at an abattoir or that in order to obtain milk, the animal is milked using machinery in a parlour and sent for processing before bottling.

Where applicable a visit to livestock processing establishment would also help to enhance knowledge and understanding regarding the life cycle and product/s obtained. Examples could include a dairy, abattoir, market etc. If this is not available, a visit to a supermarket to identify specific products could be carried out.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Safe and humane treatment should be discussed and observed at this point in order to provide candidates with basic underpinning knowledge prior to the practical activities in Outcome 2. Candidates should be able to identify the basic requirements of animal husbandry:

- ◆ providing food and water
- ◆ providing and maintaining a clean and safe habitat
- ◆ handling and moving animals using the appropriate methods and equipment to limit stress.

Outcome 2

The delivery of this Outcome will allow the candidates to familiarize themselves with the basic routine tasks involved in the daily upkeep of two different types of livestock. Prior to commencing, candidates should be fully briefed on the tasks they are to assist with. There should be an emphasis towards safe practice at all times and, as the candidate is only required to assist in tasks, work must be closely supervised and within a suitable candidate to instructor ratio.

Time limitations should be taken into consideration when planning lessons to ensure all tasks can be completed to the correct standard.

There is an opportunity to make reference to employability skills throughout this Outcome such as punctuality, being prepared, wearing correct personal protective equipment and following instructions.

Candidates are required to assist in providing the required amount of feed which could include giving concentrates, silage, hay, cobs etc either in a housed or field situation. Hand feeding would be the preferred method as oppose to using machinery. If the livestock are at grass this could be covered by moving them to a new field or area and providing minerals. Inspection of all water troughs should take place and the candidate given opportunities to undertake routine maintenance such as bailing out old water or adjusting the ball cock.

Routine inspection of fence and/or pen perimeters should be undertaken alongside an inspection of housed areas for cleanliness. The candidate must then assist with basic maintenance tasks such as repairing or adjusting an area of fence, cleaning gates and/or areas of heavy use, providing fresh bedding.

Gathering photographic evidence should be encouraged as a way of documenting progress and to aid with the familiarization of tasks.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

The main aim of this Outcome is to promote awareness and attention to detail when working with animals and as a general employability skill.

The candidate is required to describe the five general ways of checking an animal's health. Descriptions should include basic information such as:

- ◆ Appetite — is the animal eating or not?
- ◆ Breathing — is it normal or heavy and labored?
- ◆ Appearance — bright eyes, standing well or withdrawn and isolated from group?
- ◆ Movement — is it moving well or limping.
- ◆ Dung or droppings — are they of the correct consistency?

Healthy, normal behaviour and if applicable, unhealthy, abnormal behavior should be pointed out and explained in relation to each of the points above. Support notes and/or reference material should also be made available.

It should be explained that candidates working at this level would not be expected to take on sole responsibility for checking the health and well-being of animals and that correct procedure should be followed if they felt something was not right. Such as noting the animal's identification details and alerting another member of staff.

Opportunities should be given for the candidate to experience using these methods in a practical setting under close supervision and the instructor should feel confident that the candidate is making a conscious effort during the monitoring process.

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

- CU1 Maintain safe and effective working practices
- CU2 Monitor and maintain health and safety
- CU16 Assist with maintaining structures and surfaces
- CU20 Maintain and repair structures and surfaces
- CU29 Assist with the care of animals
- LP1 Assist with preparing and maintaining livestock accommodation
- LP2 Assist with preparation and the monitoring of livestock outdoors
- LP3 Adopt good bio-security practices at work
- LP7 Provide feed and water to livestock
- LP27 Maintain, monitor and evaluate the provision of feed and water to livestock

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Outcome 1

Emphasis on practical, outdoor sessions with minimal classroom work including:

- ◆ site visits
- ◆ talks with industry professionals.

Support material could be provided including:

- ◆ paper based material (worksheets, publications)
- ◆ video
- ◆ internet
- ◆ slides/electronic presentations.

Outcome 2

Practical work carried out under supervised, instructor-led conditions.

Outcome 3

A mixture of class and practical sessions could be used to provide the necessary information. Practical sessions should be used for application of information.

Support material could be provided including:

- ◆ paper based material (worksheets, publications)
- ◆ video
- ◆ internet
- ◆ slides/ electronic presentations.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Assessment could be undertaken in a holistic manner within a practical setting allowing candidates to answer questions pertaining to Outcome 1 before taking part in activities pertaining to Outcomes 2 and 3.

Outcome 1

Written and /or oral and performance evidence is required. Short answers are required for each of the Performance Criteria and could be recorded by means of work sheets or an assessor observation checklist.

Outcome 2

Performance Evidence is required. Performance Criteria could be recorded by means of an assessor observation checklist.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

Written and/or oral and performance evidence is required. Evidence for Performance Criterion (a) could be gathered by means of worksheets. Evidence for Performance Criterion (b) could be recorded by means of an assessor observation checklist.

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 social software. 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, a range of agricultural livestock and their uses. Candidates will also experience basic husbandry skills for two species of agricultural livestock as well as identifying ways of monitoring health and wellbeing. Candidates will:

- ◆ describe signs of good health and how to deal with poor health to others.
- ◆ work with a responsible person to assist with caring for animals.
- ◆ communicate their ideas and observations.
- ◆ carry out research using ICT.
- ◆ select the appropriate tools and equipment for a particular task.

As they are doing this Unit candidates will develop aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication, Working with Others, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Problem Solving*.

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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