



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Poultry Production (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H288 12

Superclass: SH

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Version: 01

Summary

This Unit enables candidates to develop the specialist skills and knowledge required to work with poultry. Candidates will learn about the routine of caring for poultry, practical tasks required to maintain healthy and productive poultry and learn how to monitor production and progress. This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Agriculture at SCQF level 6 but is also available as a free-standing Unit. Successful completion of this Unit may facilitate progression to further study or to related employment.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe the routine of poultry husbandry in a range of systems.
- 2 Carry out routine tasks to maintain healthy and productive poultry.
- 3 Monitor the production and progress of poultry.
- 4 Prepare poultry for a given purpose.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it some prior knowledge of livestock would be beneficial. This may be evidenced by completion of the following Unit, or equivalent:

XXXX XX *Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare* (SCQF level 6)

Credit points and level

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

**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)

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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 component in this Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Poultry Production (SCQF level 6)

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 routine of poultry husbandry in a range of systems.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify breeds and classes of poultry.
- (b) Describe poultry breeding in a range of systems.
- (c) Describe appropriate poultry watering and feeding in a range of systems.
- (d) Describe poultry housing in a range of systems.
- (e) Describe poultry finishing and marketing in a range of systems.

Outcome 2

Carry out routine tasks to maintain healthy and productive poultry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify key factors in the maintenance of bird health.
- (b) Administer medication to poultry in accordance with good farm practice.
- (c) Move, handle and restrain poultry in accordance with good farm practice.
- (d) Score poultry for body condition.
- (e) Recognise good health and ill health in a group of poultry.

Outcome 3

Monitor the production and progress of poultry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Maintain poultry records.
- (b) Calculate efficiency factors.
- (c) Compare flock performance in relation to national standards and benchmarks.

Outcome 4

Prepare poultry for a given purpose.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select poultry for a given circumstance.
- (b) Grade eggs for sale.
- (c) Prepare poultry for sale in accordance with market requirements.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written and/or recorded oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Evidence may be generated holistically and will incorporate the following components relating to each of the Outcomes.

For Outcome 1, candidates must provide written and/or oral evidence, in closed-book conditions, to show that they can:

- ◆ identify at least two breeds or crosses of poultry suitable for breeding in a given system.
- ◆ describe preparation for the breeding cycle and management, including incubation and hatching.
- ◆ explain the importance of watering and feeding poultry at key stages of bird life.
- ◆ justification of feeds and quantities at key stages of bird life.
- ◆ describe two benefits of internal and two benefits of external accommodation.
- ◆ describe the utilisation of waste from a poultry flock.
- ◆ state market requirements in terms of egg grade, colour and size and poultry meat.

For Outcome 2, candidates must provide written and/or oral evidence, in closed-book conditions, to show that they can:

- ◆ identify the causes, symptoms and treatment of five diseases or disorders of poultry.
- ◆ identify the control and prevention of five diseases or disorders of poultry.

Candidates must provide performance evidence, under supervised conditions, to show that they can:

- ◆ administer medication to a minimum of three birds.
- ◆ move, handle and restrain a minimum of three birds for treatment.
- ◆ apply an identification mark to a minimum of three birds.
- ◆ condition score five birds.
- ◆ weigh a minimum of three birds.
- ◆ visual identification and reporting of good or ill health and behaviour in a group of birds.

For Outcome 3, candidates must provide written and/or oral evidence, in supervised, open-book conditions, to show that they can:

- ◆ complete one management and one compulsory poultry record.
- ◆ calculate four efficiency factors (growth rate, egg production/year, feed conversion ratio, mortality rate).
- ◆ compare the four stated efficiency factors with national standards and benchmarks.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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For Outcome 4, candidates must provide performance evidence, under supervised conditions, to show that they can:

- ◆ select and group poultry for sale in relation to size, weight and appearance.
- ◆ grade eggs for sale in relation to size and colour.
- ◆ prepare birds for sale in accordance with market requirements.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Poultry Production (SCQF level 6)

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 is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Agriculture at SCQF level 6, but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit. Practical delivery of this Unit could be integrated with the Unit *Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare* (SCQF level 6).

In this Unit candidates will develop a range of skills and knowledge required to work with poultry. They will learn about the routine of poultry husbandry in a range of systems, and how to maintain healthy and productive birds. They will also learn about monitoring the production and progress of birds and how to prepare birds for a given purpose.

This Unit should prepare candidates for progression to Higher National Agriculture Units, other related land-based qualifications or to related employment.

Outcome 1 will provide candidates with underpinning knowledge in relation to the husbandry of poultry in a range of systems. They should be aware of the cyclical routine of poultry production in a range of systems as below:

- ◆ poultry classes, chicks, pullets, hens, broilers, roasters, breeds, hybrids.
- ◆ reproduction, fertilisation, brood, incubation, hatching, growing, selecting.
- ◆ feeds, protein, quantity and quality, feeding routine, feeding and watering equipment feeding area, feeding methods, in relation to chicks, pullets, laying birds and broilers.
- ◆ indoor/outdoor accommodation, environment control, handling facilities, waste handling and storage, water and feed equipment.
- ◆ poultry litter, hygiene, environment, soil and plant nutrients, fertiliser saving.
- ◆ establishing egg production, maintaining egg production, collecting eggs, grading eggs, preparing eggs for transport.
- ◆ selecting/receiving eggs for hatching, day old chicks, point of lay, pullets, broilers, roasters, ex battery cage hens.

Outcome 2 will provide candidates with the opportunity to develop practical skills in relation to maintaining poultry husbandry and health. Candidates should be able to describe bird health with reference to bacterial, viral, fungal and nutritional diseases, as well as internal and external parasites. They will also be expected to carry out a range of tasks including administering medicated feed and water, handling, restraining and weighing birds, carrying out subcutaneous and/or intra muscular injection. Candidates should also be able to recognise good and ill health, appearance and behaviour of birds in a flock. In the event of being unable to inject a live bird, this can be done by appropriate simulation methods.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3 provides candidates with underpinning knowledge in relation to monitoring the production and progress of poultry. Candidates should know how to maintain and complete compulsory records including identification, medicines and movement records. Management records such as laying records, feeding records, deaths, etc should also be covered.

Candidates should be able to calculate efficiency factors which could include average egg production, egg production per bird and percentage of broken eggs, feed conversion efficiency, mortality rate and compare/benchmark these figures to national standards.

Outcome 4 should enable candidates to identify, select and prepare birds for given purposes, eg breeding chicks, layers, broilers, cast markets. They should be able to select and group stock in relation to age, size, weight and breed. Knowledge of egg size and quality should be covered, with reference made to suitable markets. Birds should also be assessed, weighed and prepared for sale.

This Unit is broadly aligned to the following National Occupational Standards (NOS) from Lantra:

LP16	Prepare birds for reproduction and enable fertilisation
LP17	Brood and grow young birds
LP19	Select and transfer livestock
LP22	Establish and maintain egg production
LP25	Promote and maintain the healthy performance of livestock.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The Unit should be delivered in as practical a context as possible with delivery taking place both on site to study poultry enterprises and in a classroom setting to study the underpinning theory. The emphasis should always be on the practical application of knowledge and understanding. Tutors must ensure that candidates adhere to appropriate health and safety guidelines in all practical activities.

Candidates would benefit from a balanced approach to learning by undertaking farm visits to poultry Units, and participating in classroom activities to develop knowledge and understanding of poultry production and marketing. Working in groups, various systems can be compared, and group and individual work can be included for practical sessions.

This Unit should provide candidates with an opportunity to develop the following essential skills for life, learning and work:

- ◆ Employability — through developing practical skills in line with good farm practice and working on time limited tasks.
- ◆ Sustainability — through considering the use of resources and recycling, etc.
- ◆ Technical skills — through poultry bird handling.
- ◆ Organisational skills — in terms of personal management through punctuality, record keeping, etc.
- ◆ Interpersonal skills — through contact with farm staff and in class groups.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Both the practical and written/oral elements of the Unit lend themselves to holistic assessment approaches. The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

Outcome 1: This could be assessed by short answer or restricted response questions.

Outcome 2: This could be assessed by short answer questions, and a series of practical exercises supported by an assessor observation checklist. Where assessing administering medication to birds, this can be via simulation, if necessary.

Outcome 3: This could be assessed by an assignment.

Outcome 4: This could be assessed by practical exercises and/or a written and/or oral assignment covering the reasons for selection of eggs and birds.

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

In this Unit candidates will develop knowledge and skills in how to successfully grow and rear poultry in a range of production systems through the knowledge of husbandry, monitoring of progress and practical skills. Candidates will:

- ◆ look at key aspects of the husbandry of poultry birds.
- ◆ suggest appropriate disease control, prevention and treatment methods.
- ◆ select feed types and quantities.
- ◆ monitor bird production and progress.
- ◆ carry out a range of practical tasks in accordance with good farm practice.
- ◆ make calculations and comparisons.
- ◆ justify selection of poultry birds for a given purpose.

This means that as they are doing this Unit, candidates may develop aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *Problem Solving*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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In addition, aspects of the following Core Skills could be developed where particular learning and teaching approaches are adopted:

- ◆ *Working with Others*, eg through group work such as in bird handling
- ◆ *ICT*, eg through using ICT such as in recording data electronically, carrying out calculations etc

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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