



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H2N4 12

Superclass: SH

Publication date: February 2013

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Summary

This Unit enables learners to acquire knowledge and skills associated with maintaining and recording the health and welfare of farm livestock, in accordance with legislation and the codes of practice of governing bodies.

This is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Agriculture (SCQF level 6) but is also available as a free-standing Unit.

Successful completion of this Unit may facilitate progression to further study in related subject areas.

Outcomes

- 1 Recognise signs of health and ill health in livestock.
- 2 Identify and describe the causes, transmission, symptoms, treatment, control and prevention of disease and disorders in livestock.
- 3 Identify relevant livestock codes of good practice.
- 4 Carry out a range of livestock husbandry tasks.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre. However learners would benefit from having some knowledge of livestock.

General information (cont)

Unit title: 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.*

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill 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: Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare (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

Recognise signs of health and ill health in livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify normal appearance and behaviour in livestock.
- (b) Identify abnormal appearance and behaviour in livestock.
- (c) Identify factors which affect animal health and welfare.

Outcome 2

Identify and describe the causes, transmission, symptoms, treatment, control and prevention of disease and disorders in livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify the main causes of disease in livestock.
- (b) Describe the factors affecting disease transmission.
- (c) Describe the symptoms of disease in livestock.
- (d) Describe the general principles of treatment.
- (e) Describe methods of disease prevention and control.

Outcome 3

Identify relevant livestock codes of good practice.

Performance Criteria

- (a) State the Five Freedoms related to animal health and welfare.
- (b) Identify records required by legislation.

Outcome 4

Carry out a range of livestock husbandry tasks.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Carry out routine stock tasks in accordance with good farm practice.
- (b) Adhere to appropriate health and safety practices.
- (c) Complete records required by legislation.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare (SCQF level 6)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written and/or oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Evidence must be obtained under supervised conditions at appropriate points throughout the Unit. Evidence can be generated holistically or Outcome by Outcome.

For Outcome 1, learners must provide evidence of the following in closed-book conditions:

- ◆ Identification of five positive signs of health in one species of livestock
- ◆ Identification of five negative signs of health in one species of livestock
- ◆ Reporting of the state of health of selected groups of at least one different species of livestock
- ◆ Identification of one factor relating to environment and one factor relating to management which affects animal health and welfare

For Outcome 2, learners must provide evidence of the following in closed-book conditions:

- ◆ Identification of four causes of disease or disorders in livestock
- ◆ In relation to at least four diseases description of how each is transmitted, possible symptoms, standard treatments, and at least one method of prevention or control

For Outcome 3, learners must provide evidence of the following in closed-book conditions:

- ◆ Statement of the Five Freedoms
- ◆ Identification of four records which are required by law from the following: registration, movement, medicine, death, notifiable diseases

For Outcome 4, learners must provide performance evidence in supervised conditions, that they can:

- ◆ Carry out a minimum of five routine tasks relating to one or more species of livestock, while adhering to health and safety regulations
- ◆ Complete two records required by legislation from the following: registration, movement, medicine, death, notifiable diseases

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry Health and Welfare (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 a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Agriculture (SCQF level 6) but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

In this Unit learners will learn about the husbandry, health and welfare of livestock. It would be beneficial for learners to have some prior knowledge of livestock.

Learners will carry out routine tasks to maintain healthy and productive stock. They will learn how to identify causes of disease and describe measures to maintain healthy stock, whilst adhering to good welfare standards.

This Unit should prepare learners for progression to specific animal husbandry and production NQ Units, Higher National Units in agriculture, or other related land-based qualifications.

Outcome 1 provides learners with underpinning knowledge enabling them to recognise signs of health and ill health in a range of livestock. Positive signs of health should include: bright eyes, glossy coat, chewing the cud, normal dung, normal walk, grooming, erect ears, inquisitiveness, moist nose, eating, herding or flocking instinct and playing.

Learners should be able to recognise negative signs of health which should include abnormalities in behaviour and appearance from the following: dull coat, runny eyes, separation from group, coughing, scours, runny nose, sunken eyes, droopy ears, lameness, rubbing or itching, feather pecking, dull, off food, sickness, loss of wool, bare patches on coat, or damp coat.

Learners should compile a report regarding the state of health of selected groups of livestock.

Learners should identify factors which affect animal health and welfare. General awareness of good hygiene, space, light and availability of food and water should be covered.

Outcome 2 provides learners with the underpinning knowledge to describe the causes, transmission, symptoms, treatment, control and prevention of diseases and disorders in a range of livestock. Learners should be able to identify the causes of disease including bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoa, poisons, nutritional and metabolic disorders.

Learners should also be able to identify vectors of transmission such as infectious (air-borne, soil-borne, water-borne), contagious, or oral ingestion and be able to identify common symptoms such as swelling, coughing, off feed, isolation, runny eyes, runny nose, scours, sickness, and general abnormal behaviour, etc.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare (SCQF level 6)

Prevention and control should be covered in relation to biosecurity, vaccinations, good hygiene, and general staff training in the area of good stockmanship.

Treatment of diseases is also important. Learners should be aware of dosing, antibiotics, subcutaneous, intravenous and intramuscular injections and intramammary treatments. They should be aware that these may be conducted by oral administration, skin scrape, homeopathic, and systemic administration, for example.

Outcome 3 will enable learners to identify relevant livestock codes of good practice relating to the health and welfare of a range of livestock and identify appropriate records. Learners should be aware of the codes of practice relating to intensive, extensive, indoor and outdoor systems.

The Five Freedoms should also be covered:

- ◆ freedom from discomfort
- ◆ freedom to express normal behaviour
- ◆ freedom from pain, suffering and disease
- ◆ freedom from hunger and thirst
- ◆ freedom from fear and distress

Outcome 4 will provide learners with the opportunity to develop skills by carrying out a minimum of five tasks relating to one or more species of livestock. The tasks should be performed while adhering to health and safety regulations and may be from the following list or other practical tasks as appropriate to the species:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◆ hoof care | ◆ disbudding |
| ◆ injecting, pour-ons | ◆ mange washing |
| ◆ dosing | ◆ cleaning and disinfecting |
| ◆ taking temperature | ◆ back clipping |
| ◆ teeth clipping | ◆ examining mouth and teeth |
| ◆ dagging | ◆ castration and tail docking |
| ◆ tattooing | ◆ intra-mammary treatment |
| ◆ tagging | ◆ udder examination |

Learners are also required to maintain records. These could include registration, movement, medicine, death, and notifiable diseases.

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

- LP4 Establish and maintain conditions appropriate to the welfare of livestock
- LP5 Assist with maintaining the health and well-being of livestock

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare (SCQF level 6)

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 on site to study husbandry, health and welfare in context 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 ensure that learners adhere to appropriate health and safety guidelines in all practical activities.

Learners would benefit from a balanced approach to learning by undertaking farm visits to various livestock Units, and participating in classroom activities to develop knowledge and understanding of the theories underpinning husbandry, health and welfare. Working in groups, various aspects of health and welfare can be compared, and pair work can be included for practical sessions.

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches and/or through the Outcomes and corresponding Evidence Requirements, the Unit should provide learners 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, etc
- ◆ Technical skills — through handling stock
- ◆ Organisational skills — in terms of personal management through punctuality, record keeping, etc
- ◆ Interpersonal skills — through contact with farm staff and in class groups

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit learners will develop knowledge and skills in livestock husbandry, and maintaining health and welfare. Learners will:

- ◆ Learn to recognise signs of health and ill health in livestock
- ◆ Identify the causes, transmission, symptoms, treatment, control and prevention of diseases and disorders in livestock
- ◆ Identify relevant livestock codes of good practice
- ◆ Carry out a range of livestock husbandry tasks

This means that as they are doing this Unit, learners 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* — through group work, eg stock handling
- ◆ *ICT*, eg through internet use to research legislation and codes of practice

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

- Outcome 1: This could be assessed by a short report or oral questioning.
- Outcome 2: This could be assessed by short answer or restricted response questions.
- Outcome 3: This could be assessed by short answer questions and completion of appropriate records.
- Outcome 4: This could be assessed by a series of practical exercises supported by an assessor observation checklist.

Both the practical and written/oral elements of the Unit lend themselves to holistic assessment approaches. Learners could maintain a folio of evidence to record their work throughout the Unit.

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 learner 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)*.

Disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual learners 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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 embedded.	04/02/2013

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