



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Farm Livestock (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6SV 11

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to acquire knowledge of the basic principles of the care of farm and other domestic livestock. It is intended for candidates with little or no experience with livestock. It is designed for those destined for careers in animal care or as a basic introduction for those going into agriculture

OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify livestock by their appearance.
- 2 Feed and care for one type of livestock.
- 3 Handle one type of livestock.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

1 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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: SH

Publication date: May 2009

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

There are opportunities for Core Skill development; these are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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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

Identify livestock by their appearance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The identification of breeds, crosses and classes of livestock is correct.
- (b) The identification of individual animals by their natural and/or man-made markings is correct.
- (c) The identification of position of external anatomical features is correct.

OUTCOME 2

Feed and care for one type of livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The counting of livestock is accurate.
- (b) The identification of common livestock feeds is correct.
- (c) The provision of food for livestock is in accordance with instructions.
- (d) The maintenance of clean and safe environmental conditions are in accordance with instructions.
- (e) The identification of normal stock behaviour is correct in terms of activity within a group and individual posture and movement.

OUTCOME 3

Handle one type of livestock.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The preparation of handling facilities is complete and correct.
- (b) The movement of livestock is humane and safe.
- (c) The handling and restraint of livestock is effective with minimum of stress.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Written and/or recorded oral evidence and performance evidence, supplemented with an assessor observation checklist is required to demonstrate that candidates have met the requirements of all Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PC).

All relevant operational procedures undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations, codes of practice and manufacturers' recommendations where appropriate.

Outcome 1 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

The candidate will be presented with short answer questions to test knowledge and skills required to state the anatomical position of the body systems. The exercise will consist of short answer questions allocated as follows:

- (i) Performance Criterion (a) 10 identifications of breeds, crosses and classes of livestock.
- (ii) Performance Criterion (b) five identifications of live animals.
- (iii) Performance Criterion (c) identification of ten external anatomical features.

The candidate will be presented with short answer questions to test the knowledge required. This will be a closed-book test.

Outcome 2 — Performance evidence

The candidate will be presented with a practical exercise which tests the application of knowledge and skills required to care for one type of livestock. The exercise will centre on a specific farm situation and will cover the following areas:

- (i) Counting livestock on three occasions.
- (ii) Identification of seven livestock feeds.
- (iii) Feeding a group of livestock.
- (iv) Maintaining a clean and safe environment for a group of livestock.
- (v) Identification of normal stock behaviour.

This assessment should be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Outcome 3 — Performance evidence

The candidate will be presented with a practical exercise which tests the knowledge and skills required to handle one type of livestock.

The exercise will centre on a given farm situation and will cover the following areas:

- (i) Prepare handling facilities.
- (ii) Move livestock.
- (iii) Handle and restrain livestock.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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The assessment should be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

When using Performance Evidence, assessor observation checklists and other assessment records should be maintained and kept up to date to keep track of candidate progress and to provide evidence for internal and external verification purposes.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Animal Care: Farm Livestock (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 is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 5, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra, Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standard (NOS) Units:

- (AC1) Assist with the movement and handling of animals
- (AC2) Assist with animal feedstuffs
- (AC3) Maintain the cleanliness of the working environment
- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
- (CU29) Assist with the care of animals
- (CU30) Assist with animal accommodation
- (CU31) Assist with the movement of animals
- (CU32) Maintain health and welfare of animals
- (CU33) Provide feed and water to animals
- (CU34) Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of animals
- (CU37) Establish and maintain animals within their accommodation
- (CU42) Load and unload animals for transport
- (CU115) Control, handle and restrain animals
- (CU45) Control and restrain animals

The Unit is designed to give learners experience with farm livestock but could include other larger species such as Camelids, goats and rare breed stock.

Safety regulations and safe working practices and procedures should be adhered to at all times. The type of animals used in this Unit should reflect the candidates' interests or background. The normal code of practice and legal constraints on young people working with livestock must be observed.

The knowledge content of all Outcomes should be related to a practical end use wherever possible, eg in ensuring that correct and adequate rations are fed to the animals.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Corresponding to Outcomes 1–3:

- 1 Identification of animals by their appearance. Depending on species should include breed, crossbreed, sex, age, and colour. One or more species may be included. Man made 'markings' if appropriate, eg. tagging, tattooing, branding.

Basic records should include the characteristics mentioned which are appropriate to the species.

Identification of the external anatomical features. A very basic coverage of the functions of the body systems and organs.

The number of species covered will depend on the candidates' interest, background and future area of study.

- 2 Candidates look after one or more groups of animals. The emphasis should be on correctly following clear instructions. These will vary for each group of animals.

An indication of stock numbers should be made. The important aspect is the technique of counting or assessing stock numbers. Feeding of a group of animals. Checking that feed is accurately dispensed and/or stock have adequate feed.

Ensure environmental conditions are clean and safe. May involve providing bedding material, cleaning out housing area or simply checking above conditions.

Identification of common feeds, eg. grass, hay, straw, silage; cereals, sugarbeet pulp, brewers/distillers grains; rootcrops — swedes, turnips, potatoes; kale; flaked maize.

Checking stock behaviour is normal. Instructions should be given to the candidates on signs of abnormality and actions to be taken.

- 3 In the absence of adequate stock handling facilities, the candidate should at this stage not be asked to handle and restrain stock heavier than him/herself. This should reduce the risk of the candidate losing control and therefore confidence, in early contact with livestock.

The method of handling will depend on species of livestock.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Relating to Outcomes

Outcome 1

Should involve the use of live animals, slides, posters, etc.

Man made markings if appropriate can be demonstrated by viewing animals and/or slides. Demonstrations may be made of the different techniques.

Records can be made by candidates simply observing a group of livestock on one or more occasions and completing the relevant data. If appropriate tasks are being carried out by someone other than the candidates the data may be recorded.

Live animals should be used where possible to identify external anatomical features.

Use can also be made of models and diagrams.

Outcome 2

This is a practical exercise. Clear and concise instructions should be given.

Candidates may be involved in day to day caring of group livestock or may simply be instructed to look after a group of livestock on one occasion.

Feeds ideally should be seen on the farm at the time of feeding or in store.

Outcome 3

Candidates should be given a group of livestock to move and restrain. The methods used will depend on the species. Use should be made of an observation checklist.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

This Unit provides some opportunities for Core Skill development in the areas of *Numeracy* (SCQF level 4) — feed calculations, weighing etc and the Core Skill *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4) — animal handling and *Communication* (SCQF level 4).

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate will be required to identify livestock by their appearance.

The candidate will be presented with short answer questions to test knowledge and skills required to identify livestock by their appearance. The exercise will consist of short answer questions allocated as follows:

- (i) Performance Criterion (a) 10 identifications of breeds, crosses and classes of livestock.
- (ii) Performance Criterion (b) five identifications of live animals.
- (iii) Performance Criterion (c) identification of 10 external anatomical features.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on the candidate producing 21 correct responses allocated as follows:

- (i) 8 out of 10.
- (ii) 5 out of 5.
- (iii) 8 out of 10.

This will be a closed-book test.

Outcome 2

The candidate will be presented with a practical exercise which tests the application of knowledge and skills required to care for one type of livestock.

Practical Exercise

The candidate will be presented with a practical exercise which tests the application of knowledge and skills required to care for one type of livestock. The exercise will centre on a specific farm situation and will cover the following areas:

- (i) Counting livestock on three occasions.
- (ii) Identification of 7 out of 10 livestock feeds.
- (iii) Feeding a group of livestock.
- (iv) Maintaining a clean and safe environment for a group of livestock.
- (v) Identification of normal stock behaviour.

This assessment should be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

The candidate will be presented with a practical exercise which tests the knowledge and skills required to handle one type of livestock.

Practical exercise

The candidate will be presented with a practical exercise which tests the knowledge and skills required to handle one type of livestock.

The exercise will centre on a given farm situation and will cover the following areas:

- (i) Prepare handling facilities.
- (ii) Move livestock.
- (iii) Handle and restrain livestock.

The assessment should be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

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)*.

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