



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Sheep Shearing (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H289 11

Superclass: SH

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Summary

This Unit allows candidates to develop knowledge and practical skills in preparing the work area and equipment for shearing sheep, while maintaining the welfare and general wellbeing of the animal. The sheep will be shorn unassisted and the fleece correctly wrapped/stored.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Agriculture at SCQF level 6, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who have no previous sheep shearing experience.

Outcomes

- 1 Prepare for the shearing of sheep.
- 2 Carry out the shearing of sheep.
- 3 Wrap and pack fleeces for storage.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Sheep Shearing (SCQF level 5)

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: Sheep Shearing (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

Prepare for the shearing of sheep.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Ensure the work area and equipment are safe and suitable for shearing operations.
- (b) Set and lubricate the hand-piece correctly.
- (c) Set up the motor and drive.
- (d) Assess sheep to ensure that they are in a suitable condition for shearing.
- (e) Carry out all work activities in accordance with health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Outcome 2

Carry out the shearing of sheep.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select suitable clothing and footwear.
- (b) Catch and restrain sheep correctly.
- (c) Shear sheep without assistance, causing minimum stress to the animal.
- (d) Apply treatments to the animal on completion of shearing.
- (e) Release sheep safely and correctly.

Outcome 3

Wrap and pack fleeces for storage.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain the importance of wrapping fleeces correctly.
- (b) Wrap the fleece in order to present correctly to wool grader.
- (c) Ensure the wrapped fleece is compact and secure.
- (d) Pack the fleece correctly.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont'd)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Performance and written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Evidence will be obtained under open-book, supervised conditions at appropriate points throughout the Unit and can be generated holistically, or Outcome by Outcome.

For Outcome 1, candidates must provide performance evidence to show that they can:

- ◆ carry out an inspection of the work area, to include ensuring:
 - freedom from hazards
 - electrical safety equipment is fitted and working
 - motor and drive are hung and set correctly
 - hand-piece is lubricated
 - comb and cutter is set correctly for the lead, throw and tension
- ◆ assess suitability of sheep for shearing, in relation to wool rise.

Candidates must provide written and/or oral evidence to show that they can:

- ◆ describe a minimum of two examples when sheep would not be suitable for shearing.
- ◆ identify a minimum of one of the five 'Freedoms' described by the Farm Animal Welfare Council which should be complied with when shearing.

For Outcome 2, candidates must provide performance evidence to show that they can:

- ◆ select suitable clothing and footwear for shearing.
- ◆ catch and restrain a minimum of three sheep for shearing.
- ◆ shear a minimum of three sheep, without assistance, causing minimum stress to the animals.
- ◆ treat minor cuts in accordance with current industry practice. Where there are no cuts, candidates should be able to describe the correct method of treatment for cuts.
- ◆ release sheep safely and correctly on completion of shearing in accordance with current industry practice.

For Outcome 3, candidates must provide performance evidence to show that they can:

- ◆ wrap and pack a minimum of three fleeces, correctly and securely.

Candidates must provide written and/or oral evidence to show that they can:

- ◆ explain why fleeces are wrapped in a standard way.
- ◆ identify three examples of how fleece value can be reduced due to poor presentation or storage.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Sheep Shearing (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 Agriculture at SCQF level 6 but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit. Delivery of this Unit could be integrated with the Unit *Sheep Production* (SCQF level 6).

In this Unit, candidates are required to develop knowledge and practical skills in the preparation of the work area and equipment for sheep shearing. They will learn about preparing the physical work area and shearing equipment and assess the suitability of sheep for shearing. Candidates will develop practical skills in restraining and shearing sheep, paying attention to animal welfare standards and will learn how to prepare and wrap fleeces correctly.

This Unit should facilitate progression to Higher National Units, other related land-based qualifications or employment.

In relation to Outcomes 1 and 2, candidates should be aware of what constitutes a safe environment for sheep shearing, including keeping the area free from hazards, performing safety checks on electrical equipment, ensuring equipment is regularly serviced etc. They must be aware of the Sheep Welfare Code and how to ensure compliance when carrying out shearing, catching, restraining and releasing sheep. Care should be taken to carry out all practical operations whilst taking account of both personal and animal safety and welfare. Although candidates will be assessed on their ability to shear a sheep unassisted, they must be supervised at all times.

In relation to Outcome 3, candidates should have an understanding of the reasons why standard methods are applied in wrapping, packing and storage of fleeces to gain maximum financial return. This understanding underpins the practical aspect of the Unit.

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

LP14 Prepare for, and assist with, shearing livestock

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The Unit should be delivered in as practical a context as possible, with the emphasis on the practical application of the knowledge and understanding taught.

Candidates would benefit from working in small practical groups, with a range of sheep and suitable shearing equipment in order to undertake practical skills development safely. Candidates should undertake the shearing of sheep on an individual basis, supervised by competent instructors.

By blending the delivery of knowledge and understanding sessions with practical activities around the shearing equipment, facilities, sheep and fleece wrapping, candidates should have an opportunity to develop the following essential skills for life, learning and work:

- ◆ Employability and technical skills — through developing and applying practical shearing skills in line with good farm practice.
- ◆ Interpersonal skills — through team work with other candidates.
- ◆ Organisational skills — through setting up shearing and sheep handling systems and wrapping and storing fleeces in accordance with industry requirements.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

A holistic approach to assessment is recommended, through a series of practical tasks and use of observation checklists. The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

Outcome 1: A practical task involving pre-shearing set up and checks with either oral or short answer written questions to demonstrate knowledge of sheep welfare codes and legislation.

Outcome 2: A practical sheep shearing task.

Outcome 3: A practical sheep fleece rolling task with either oral or written short answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the rationale for fleece wrapping and packing methods.

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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit, candidates will learn about preparation for shearing, and carry out practical tasks of shearing and wrapping/storing fleeces. Candidates will:

- ◆ assess the work area and equipment for suitability and safety.
- ◆ set up equipment safely and correctly.
- ◆ make decisions about the suitability of sheep for shearing.
- ◆ carry out a range of tasks associated with shearing.
- ◆ prepare and wrap fleeces for packing.

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

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

- ◆ *Working with Others* — through carrying out tasks in small groups

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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