

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/0871/0	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Agriculture

Overview
The agriculture sector <p>The agriculture sector has around 150,000 businesses and 660,000 employees. It is a diverse industry with a wide range of progression and job opportunities, which vary from managing livestock such as dairy cows, cattle for beef, sheep for wool and lamb, pigs and poultry, to managing crops such as wheat, oats, peas, oilseed rape and grass for livestock. There is great demand for reliable, responsible and motivated people who can combine technical knowledge with practical skills.</p>
Who is this qualification for? <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Agriculture, which is 540 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if you study it alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).</p> <p>It is a one-year full-time course that provides a comprehensive introduction to the sector and is primarily for those intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship or a higher-level agriculture qualification.</p> <p>No prior study of the sector is needed, but you should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including English, mathematics and science.</p>
What does the qualification cover? <p>The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.</p>

There are five mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of agriculture:

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- land-based machinery operations
- managing environmental activities in agriculture.

You will be able to add one optional unit to the mandatory content. These units have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in the agriculture sector and, when taken alongside other level 3 qualifications, to a range of higher education courses.

Optional units will introduce you to a sector-specialist area of your choice, including working in particular environments, and they link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover areas such as:

- crop production
- developing a land-based enterprise
- farm livestock husbandry
- livestock health and diseases
- crop handling, storage and quality assurance.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 150 hours of work experience with an employer in the sector, where you will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at what level?

This qualification will prepare you for direct employment in the agriculture sector, and is suitable if you wish to enter a particular specialist area of work, such as:

- assistant herdsperson
- assistant stockperson
- assistant machinery operator
- assistant trials officer.

If taken alongside additional qualifications such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Animal Management, it may support entry to livestock assistant roles. If taken alongside qualifications such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Business, it may support entry to administrative or assistant roles in management.

You may be able to take on more supervisory roles, or roles with greater responsibility, or seek employment through an agriculture apprenticeship.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

If you complete this qualification in a year, you may progress to further learning at level 3; for example, a second BTEC Foundation Diploma in a complementary sector, or a larger size BTEC National in Agriculture.

When achieved alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study, you will be able to progress to a range of degree programmes in the agriculture sector.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside AS/A Levels in Biology and Chemistry, it could lead to a:

- BSc in Agriculture
- BSc (Hons) in Agriculture with Animal Science]
- BSc (Hons) in Agriculture with Crop Management
- BSc (Hons) in Agriculture with Environmental Management
- BSc (Hons) in Agriculture with Farm Business Management
- BSc (Hons) in Agriculture with Mechanisation.

You should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Why choose this size of qualification?

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should you take this particular one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Agriculture** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship in agriculture.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Agriculture**, which is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship in agriculture.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Agriculture**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It is principally for those wanting to progress directly into work with livestock or in crop production. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression to more specialist employment.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Agriculture**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the agriculture sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

For more detail about the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

Who supports this qualification?

Professional or trade bodies

Agricultural Industries Confederation

British Growers Association

Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF)

Employer(s)

Maundrils Farm

W J Dickinson and Sons (Farmers) Ltd

Further and Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England