



Pearson

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/0872/2	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate 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 Extended Certificate in Agriculture, which is 360 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 1 A level 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). This size of qualification allows you to study related and complementary qualifications without duplication of content. It provides good preparation if you are considering an apprenticeship in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>As well as direct entry to employment, when taken alongside further level 3 qualifications, it also supports access to a range of higher education courses in the agriculture sector.</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 three mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of agriculture:

- professional working responsibilities
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- applied agricultural farming practice.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 75 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?

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:

- general farm worker
- trainee agriculture technician
- trainee trials officer
- trainee crop technician.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

Because the **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Agriculture** is generally taken alongside other level 3 qualifications, as part of a two-year programme of study, you will be able to choose from a range of specialist degree programmes to progress to.

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 A Levels in Biology and Chemistry, or a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in the relevant field of study, such as Applied Science or Business, 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.

You may also progress to a higher apprenticeship.

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 Extended Certificate in Agriculture** is the smallest qualification in the suite and is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the agriculture sector, with supplementing fields of study.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Agriculture**, which 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 **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)

Employers

Maundrils Farm
W J Dickinson and Sons (Farmers) Ltd

Higher Education

Myerscough College
University of Central Lancashire
University of the West of England