



## Purpose Statement

### Name of regulated qualification

QN: 603/1212/9

Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Agriculture

### Overview

#### The agriculture sector

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.

#### Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Agriculture**, which is 720 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 2 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). As well as direct entry to employment, this qualification will prepare you for higher study of a specialist degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma. This route gives you the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role.

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.

#### What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that the content 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.

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

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- work experience in land-based sectors
- estate skills
- land-based machinery operations
- managing environmental activities in agriculture
- managing activities for agricultural enterprises.

You will be able to add eight optional units to the mandatory content. These optional units have been designed to support 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
- farm livestock husbandry
- crop handling, storage and quality assurance
- livestock health and diseases
- developing a land-based enterprise
- root crop and vegetable production
- combinable crop production
- grass and forage crop production
- poultry production
- sheep production
- beef production
- dairy production
- pig production
- livestock nutrition
- organic agricultural production
- land-based workshop practices.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 225 hours of work experience with an employer in the sector, where opportunities will be given 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:

- herds person
- stock person
- machinery operator
- trials officer.

If you have taken additional level 3 qualifications you could increase your professional industry skills and competencies, and have increased responsibilities in the above job roles. Additional qualifications include:

- Safe Working in Agriculture and Production Horticulture
- Health and Safety: Agriculture and Horticulture
- Tractor Driving.

### Will the qualification lead to further learning?

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many relevant courses. Normally an additional level 3 qualification will be needed and, when taken alongside a science qualification, this qualification could lead to degree courses such as 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 Diploma in Agriculture** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. Its size and specialist mandatory and optional units mean there is time in a study programme for you to take an additional level 3 qualification, such as one of those listed above, to support progression to more specialist employment or to a higher level of study.

It is intended that the suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Agriculture**, which is the smallest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Agriculture 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 **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 of full-time study, 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 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 & Sons (Farmers) Ltd

### Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England