



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification

QN: 603/2676/1

Title: **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended 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. 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 Extended Diploma in Agriculture**, which is 1080 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 3 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). Outside the Tech Bacc, it will normally be your only qualification in a two-year study programme, and is ideal for you if you are looking for a full-time course specialising in the agriculture sector, and you have a firm intention of progressing to employment in one of the wide variety of roles available.

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 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.

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

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

You will be able to add six optional units to the mandatory content. These have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in the agricultural sector, and 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 link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover the following areas:

- crop production
- forage crops and grassland management
- developing a land-based enterprise
- farm livestock husbandry
- grass forage and crop production
- livestock health and diseases
- poultry production
- sheep production
- beef production
- dairy production
- pig production
- land-based workshop practices
- root crop and vegetable production
- crop handling, storage and quality assurance
- selecting and managing machine purchases in the land-based sectors
- combinable crop production
- livestock nutrition
- animal genetics.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 300 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:

- stockperson
- herdsman
- livestock contractor
- crop contractor
- agricultural technician
- arable operator
- farm mechanic
- unit manager (e.g. dairy, pigs, poultry).

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 meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. This qualification could lead to a degree course such as:

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

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 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 onto an apprenticeship in agriculture.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Agriculture**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It typically makes up two-thirds of a 16–19 study programme, and is normally taken alongside other qualifications. The additional qualification(s) studied allow you either to give breadth to your study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give your studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

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 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

Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England