

## Component Specification

### Beef Husbandry

#### NFQ Level 5

#### 5N20388

#### 1. Component Details

<b>Title</b>	Beef Husbandry
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	Riar Eallaigh
<b>Award Class</b>	Minor
<b>Code</b>	5N20388
<b>Level</b>	5
<b>Credit Value</b>	10
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to carry out commercial beef farming under management
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	Learners will be able to:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Discuss beef production in the context of importance in Irish agriculture, distribution of production, and market requirements.</li><li>2 Discuss factors affecting efficiency in beef production including management and biological efficiency factors</li><li>3 Analyse the effectiveness of Irish beef production systems by assessing husbandry practices required to achieve optimal economic and animal performance for different systems of Irish beef production</li><li>4 Describe component systems of beef production and their respective key physical and economic efficiency indicators</li></ol>

- 5 Describe diseases, disorders and parasites of cattle and their control
- 6 Discuss best practice in cattle husbandry tasks required for beef production
- 7 Analyse housing for cattle production
- 8 Assess a range of beef animals for economic characteristics using recognised criteria
- 9 Control common diseases affecting the health of cattle, by planning and implementing prevention strategies and by correctly identifying and treating their symptoms in accordance with and using recommended good practices
- 10 Execute husbandry tasks required for the beef production cycle in accordance with human and animal safety animal welfare, traceability requirements and best practice
- 11 Perform breeding tasks required for efficient beef production
- 12 Analyse drivers of profit of beef production and explore practices to attain industry recognised targets
- 13 Practice safety and workplace health in agriculture

## **Assessment**

### **General Information**

Details of FET assessment requirements are set out in [Assessment Guidelines for Providers](#).

All FET assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme validation which are **reliable** and **valid** but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. See current FET validation guidelines at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

## Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and FETAC's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. See current FET validation guidelines at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

All learning outcomes **must** be assessed and achieved

Examination - Theory	50%
Skills Demonstration	50%

## Description

### Examination - Theory

*An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.*

*A theory-based examination assesses the ability to recall, apply and understand specific theory and knowledge.*

The assessor will devise a theory based examination to assess learning outcomes 1 to 6 inclusive and learning outcomes 7, 12 and 13.

### Skills Demonstration

*A skills demonstration is used to assess a wide range of practical based learning outcomes including practical skills and knowledge. A skills demonstration will require the learner to complete a task or series of tasks that demonstrate a range of skills.*

The assessor will devise skills demonstrations to assess learning outcomes 8 to 11. A skills demonstration will require the learner to complete a task or series of tasks appropriate to the learning outcomes. The learner must attempt a minimum of 20 of the indicative beef husbandry skills listed below.

### Indicative Beef Husbandry Skills

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of calving skills
- 2) Controlling, handling and assessing the health of a calf
- 3) Identifying breeds and crosses
- 4) Judging weights of different categories of cattle and cows
- 5) Judging cattle conformation
- 6) Judging fat score
- 7) Judging cattle cleanliness score
- 8) Condition scoring suckler cows
- 9) Grouping animals for sale through a mart
- 10) Judging values of different categories of cattle
- 11) Judging values of different categories of cows
- 12) Checking animal temperature
- 13) Dosing animals
- 14) Administering subcutaneous injections and completing animals remedies record
- 15) Administering pour-on and completing animal remedies record
- 16) Administering intramuscular injections and competing animal remedies record
- 17) Identify signs of heat
- 18) Tail painting
- 19) Castrating
- 20) Dehorning Calves
- 21) Selecting bulls for suckler herd
- 22) Selecting stock for beef breeding
- 23) Selecting cows for culling
- 24) Assessing animals for health
- 25) Assessing grass availability
- 26) Mixing ration formulation

### Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Learners may be assessed on the basis of their prior knowledge and experience. Providers must be specifically quality assured to assess learners by this means. To do so they must complete B10, see Provider's Quality Assurance Guidelines and be included on the Register of RPL approved providers. See RPL Guidelines at [www.fetac.ie](http://www.fetac.ie) for further information and registration details.

### Grading

Pass	50% - 64%
Merit	65% - 79%

Distinction 80% - 100%

**Specific Validation Requirements**

The provider must have the following in place to offer this award:

1. Access to farm(s) that have a beef herd of adequate size for practical skills training and individual skills assessment
2. Suitable equipment and facilities to safely demonstrate and assess indicative beef husbandry skills

**Supporting Documentation**

1. Publications from: The Health and Safety Authority of Ireland
2. Publications from: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
3. Publications from: Teagasc, The Agriculture and Food Development Authority

**Access**

To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.

The learner must have successfully passed the skill of “controlling and handling of cattle” contained in Principles of Agriculture to access this award.

**Transfer**

Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.

**2. FET Award Standards**

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ’s award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for FET awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
Major Award	Certificate Specification	Certificate (Levels 1 to 5) Advanced Certificate (Level 6)
Supplemental Award	Supplemental Specification	Supplemental Certificate (Level 3 to 6)

Special Purpose	Specific Purpose Specification	Specific Purpose Certificate (Levels 3 to 6)
Minor Award	Component Specification	Component Certificate (Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

### 3. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

**Table 1: FET Credit Values**

NFQ Level	Major Awards Credit Values	Default Credit Values Minor Awards	Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values	Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges
1	20	5	10	
2	30	5	10	
3	60	10	5,20	>5 and <60
4	90	10	5,15,20	>5 and <90
5	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120
6	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120

### Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a broad range of skills that require some theoretical understanding. The outcomes may relate to engaging in a specific activity, with the capacity to use the instruments and techniques relating to an occupation. They are associated with work being undertaken independently, subject to general direction.

Strand	Sub-strand	Nature of learning
Knowledge	Breadth	Broad range of knowledge
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant depth in some areas.
	Range	Demonstrate a broad range of specialised skills and tools

Know How & Skill	Selectivity	Evaluate and use information to plan and develop investigative strategies and to determine solutions to varied unfamiliar problems
Competence	Context	Act in a range of varied and specific contexts, taking responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs; identify and apply skill and knowledge to a wide variety of contexts
	Role	Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities; join and function within multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups
	Learning to Learn	Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a managed environment
	Insight	Assume full responsibility for consistency of self- understanding and behaviour

*Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI*