



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

## Certificate Specification NFQ Level 5

### Agriculture 5M20454

#### 1. Certificate Details

<b>Title</b>	Agriculture
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	Talmhaíocht
<b>Award Type</b>	Major
<b>Code</b>	5M20454
<b>Level</b>	5
<b>Credit Value</b>	120
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this award is to enable the learner to work safely and independently under management in commercial agriculture or to progress to further and/or higher education and training.
<b>Statements of Knowledge, Skill and Competence</b>	Learners will be able to:
<b>Knowledge</b>	
<i>Breadth</i>	Demonstrate a broad range of knowledge related to the field of agriculture
<i>Kind</i>	Demonstrate knowledge of some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking pertaining to plant and animal growth processes including the effect and control of pests, diseases and disorders on plant and animal production
<b>Know How &amp; Skill</b>	
<i>Range</i>	Demonstrate a broad range of skills and use of equipment and machinery in carrying out farming operations independently and safely in accordance with recommended good practice, and interpreting data, and physical and financial farm records which accurately represent the farm business

*Selectivity* Comply with obligations and responsibilities under Irish and EU laws and regulations in relation to the treatment of soils and the environment, food traceability, in compliance with government requirements, health, welfare, safety and best practice

## **Competence**

*Context* Demonstrate defined knowledge and skills within a range of varied and specific farming contexts

*Role* Interpret data, and physical and financial farm records which accurately represent the farm business.

Work independently in a commercial agriculture setting taking direction from management

*Learning to Learn* Take responsibility for own learning in a structured context

*Insight* Reflect on personal practice to inform self understanding and professional development

The learning outcomes associated with this award are outlined in the associated Component Specifications.

## **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.

## **Transfer**

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

## **Progression**

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

## **Progression Awards**

Learners who successfully complete this award may progress to a range of different awards.

## **Grading**

Pass

Merit

Distinction

The grade achieved will be determined by the grades achieved on the components

## **2. Certificate Requirements**

**The total credit value required for this certificate is 120. This will be achieved by completing:**

<b>Award Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credit Value</b>
<b>All of the following component(s)</b>			
5N20368	Principles of Agriculture	5	15
5N20371	Farm Safety and Farm Assurance	5	15
5N20374	Soils and the Environment	5	10
5N20377	Farm Business and Technology	5	10
5N20380	Safe Use of Pesticide Products	5	5
5N1433	Work Practice	5	15
<b>A minimum credit value of 15 from the following components</b>			
5N0690	Communications	5	15
5N0693	Constructive Thinking	5	15
5N1367	Teamworking	5	15
5N1390	Personal Effectiveness	5	15
5N1418	Start your Own Business	5	15
5N1833	Mathematics	5	15
5N2985	Personal and Professional Development	5	15
5N0556	Maths for STEM	5	30
<b>A minimum credit value of 20 from the following components</b>			
5N20385	Sheep Husbandry	5	10
5N20388	Beef Husbandry	5	10
5N20393	Pig Husbandry	5	10
5N20396	Dairy Husbandry	5	10
5N20399	Grass Production	5	10
5N20402	Tillage Crop Husbandry	5	10
5N20405	Potato Production	5	10
5N20408	Equipment for Crop Establishment	5	10
5N20411	Nutrition Housing and Welfare of Pigs	5	10
5N20414	Poultry Husbandry	5	10
5N20417	Poultry Nutrition Housing and Welfare	5	10
<b>A minimum credit value of 5 from the following components</b>			
5N20420	Farm Structures	5	5
5N20423	Organic Farming Principles	5	5
5N20426	Tractor Maintenance	5	5
5N20429	Workshop Skills	5	5
5N20432	Grassland Machinery	5	5
5N20435	Mechanical Pesticide Application	5	5
5N20438	Manual Pesticide Application	5	5
5N20441	Organic Manure Handling	5	5
5N20444	Pig Manure Handling	5	5
5N20447	Poultry Manure Handling	5	5
5N20450	Flock Recording in Poultry Production	5	5

5N20453	Farm Forestry	5	5
5N20457	Structure of the Pig Industry	5	5
5N20460	Herd Recording of Pig Production	5	5
5N1748	Mechanical Hedge Trimming	5	5
5N1750	Chemical Fertiliser Application	5	5
5N1752	All Terrain Vehicle Operations	5	5

The remaining credit value of 10 can be obtained by using vocationally relevant component(s) from level 5. A maximum of 15 credits may be used from either level 4 or level 6.

### 3. Supporting Documentation

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

### 4. Specific Validation Requirements

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

1. Access to a farm with appropriate animal and crop housing and handling facilities in compliance with health and safety requirements.
2. Access to a farm with appropriate skills demonstration space in compliance with health and safety requirements.
3. Access to a farm of sufficient scale to ensure that all learners have access to animals and equipment and crops required to practice and achieve learning outcomes.
4. Stated policies and procedures by the provider to deal with potential bio-security risks.
5. Stated Specific Validation Requirements on individual component awards.

### 5. Europass Certificate Supplement

The Europass Certificate Supplement for this award can be accessed at: [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

### 6. 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 QQI awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
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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.

## 7. 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.

Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a broad range of specialised skills and tools
	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*

