

NPA RURAL SKILLS Agriculture – SQA LEVEL SCQ Level 5

What are the aims of this course

This course is designed for S5/S6 pupils, over 1/2 years, with areas covered to help to secure points to allow entry into agricultural, forestry, livestock, recreational grass courses in the future. We also cover an employability Section and Health and Safety Section, preparing pupils for 'the world of work'. The course introduces pupils to all aspects of agriculture based in our local area and further afield.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Pupils who have studied the Nat 4, Rural Skills for Work course will have some advantages but it is not essential. Having enjoyed success at NAT 4/NAT 5 English will help considerably. Pupils who have a desire to succeed in a subject that relies heavily on practical tasks and gain from experiencing 'real life' working roles at some of our many partners farms will benefit from this course. Individual study is included in a project relating to agriculture in our area therefore the course requires considerable resilience and a sound 'work ethic'.

What content is included in this course?

The major areas are Introduction to Arable Farming, Grass Management and Livestock Management. Weekly visits to working farms are a major part of this course along with the class room sessions on producing write-ups and developing the key points of each visit.

What skills will I develop?

Practical Work Skills associated with these areas of study further supplemented by report writing, practical maths and problem solving. Employability Skills and Investigation Techniques also major in this course. The pupils will also gain experience in preparing for and working outdoors while learning about health and safety on a farm. The project also includes the understanding and administration of a rural business. We have many past pupils who have moved on to study Agricultural Courses, Green Keeping, Game Keeping, Agricultural Engineering at Scottish Centres for Further Education and also University Degrees.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

The course is very practical and pupils visit an agricultural place of work for 2 periods per week. The other lessons include individual and group study, group investigations and individual 'open book and closed book assessments throughout the course..

How will I be assessed?

Internal and External verification and NAB assessment items complete the overall mark. Qualified Experts from Local Farms oversee and deliver much of the course with an SQA verifier visiting to ensure all standards are being met.

What are the homework requirements?

Diary events are recorded and parts of the Investigations will be completed individually and will be considered as homework exercises with support being offered during classroom sessions...

What are the possible progression routes?

SCQF Level 6 courses are delivered at various Scottish Rural University Colleges (see SRUC websites) e. Elmwood, Barony, Aberdeen and Thurso.

The courses follow on from the SPA SCQF Level 5 as offered at Breadalbane Academy relate to occupational areas and are linked to National Occupational Standards.

Certification:

SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5.