



Introduction to the Programme

This occupation is found in medium sized agricultural businesses, in primary production. The broad purpose of the occupation is to operationally manage the livestock related tasks on the farm such as animal health and welfare from conception and birth through to the customer; and to support business productivity. The individual will make key decisions on a day-to-day basis to ensure the protection of their own and health and safety of others. This includes ensuring the standards of cross compliance, farm assurance, biosecurity and infrastructure security are met.

The Livestock Unit Technician will usually only work with one species. The role will include the safe use and maintenance of farm vehicles, including the equipment used for transporting or producing feed. The individual will be required to understand, record and meet the business Key Performance Indicators that are set out by the employer.

Level of Study:

Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)

Typical Duration:

15 Months

Delivery Location:

North West and Cumbria

Delivery Model:

Work- based, college attendance 1 day per month with locations at sites in Cumbria and at Preston Campus

Start Date:

September 2022

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts internally with team members including line manager, business owner (principal) /manager and other departments (if applicable) on the farm. They may have the opportunity to manage people internally and manage external relationships. The individual will work alongside allied industry, to make formative decisions to assist the productivity of the livestock including breeding, nutrition and health plan. In addition to this, they will provide factual data to third parties involved in the farm such as assurance auditors and vets.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for making decisions about daily management of livestock such as changes in diet based on nutritional values in feed. They will manage livestock before, during and after parturition, providing accommodation that meets the animal's requirements for optimal health and performance. They also select and prepare livestock for sale or transfer. The individual will be responsible for completing daily records and reporting to senior management, assisting with overall strategic decisions to help drive productivity, livestock welfare and farm health and safety in line with industry standards. Depending on the business structure, they may supervise junior members of staff. Typical working hours will depend on farm type and labour structure (for example, dairy farms require early start due to milking). A Livestock Unit Technician will be expected to do long hours, only as permitted within UK employment law.

Typical job titles include:

Flock Manager, Head Shepherd, Head Stockperson, Herd Manager, Unit Manager

Duration

This apprenticeship will typically take 15 months to complete. The length may be altered if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector.

Entry Requirements

Typically, an applicant will have attained a minimum of 4 GCSE grades C/4 including both Maths and English. Functional Skills Level 2 will be accepted as an alternative to GCSEs.

Exceptional entries will be considered for all Apprenticeships at the discretion of the college based on experience, successful interview and outcomes of Initial and Diagnostic assessments for English and Maths to establish current levels of ability

Costs

Costs will be dependent on several factors such as age of apprentice and size of employer. The funding cap for this programme is £5000. The cost may be altered if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector. Please contact us for more information. Small employers normally attract funding towards the training cost of this apprenticeship.

Delivery Location

Delivery is work-based using blended learning technologies on the employer's premises, supported by college attendance one day per month at sited in Cumbria and at Myerscough College Preston campus. There is an expectation that 20% of the working week will be off the job training, which is a legal requirement.

Core Occupation Duties

- Implement biosecurity and infrastructure security in accordance with farm health and safety standards
- Manage nutrition of livestock relevant to the stage of production
- Maintain, analyse and utilise production records to improve productivity and aid compliance, reporting to senior management with insight and results.
- Manage the health and welfare of livestock pre, during and post parturition, updating health plan and recording data on livestock performance
- Operate and maintain a range of farm equipment, using technology to increase performance and aid compliance. for example, scanning, eid tagging, robotic milking
- Safely operate farm vehicles and relevant attachments, maintaining vehicles and equipment to promote efficiency savings
- Proactively manage the livestock and direct the actions of others, to achieve business key performance indicators (kpis)
- Develop and implement a health plan to proactively manage livestock health and welfare, including identification of issues, evaluation of potential remedy actions and administration of treatment(s)
- Effectively manage the supply of feed. for example, bought in or home produced

- Carry out and supervise others with animal handling and movement across the site, to meet welfare and safety standards
- Equip and accommodate the animals' living environment for optimal health and performance
- Implement industry relevant legislation and supply chain requirements
- Proactively interact with staff and external influencers to improve productivity and achieve KPIs
- Select and prepare livestock ready for sale or transfer in line with customer specification

Knowledge, Skills & Behaviours Gained Throughout

Knowledge

- K1: Health and Safety processes and practices relevant to livestock management. This includes development and implementation of health and safety plans and risk assessments; health and safety for self and visitors, biosecurity and infrastructure requirements.
- K2: The digestive process of commonly farmed livestock (cattle (beef and dairy), pigs, sheep and goats) and how this can be managed by nutritional support.
- K3: The legal and operational aspects of livestock record keeping and the importance of maintaining and reporting on such systems (both written and digitally).
- K4: Breeding and production cycles for commonly farmed livestock and how to correctly manage livestock pre, during and post parturition to meet animal welfare and operational requirements.
- K5: The different types of technology and systems used in livestock production, their benefits and how to prepare, maintain (for example, cleaning, repairing minor faults) and use them. For example, Robotic milking, EID tagging, GPS tracking
- K6: The legislation applicable to working with farm equipment. This must include provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) legislation
- K7: How to prepare and implement health and welfare plans and schedules, identifying priorities, resources required and critical activities to achieve desired KPI's, including identification of Zoonotic, non-zoonotic and notifiable diseases (for example BSE) and their impact on human health
- K8: How to establish current health status of stock, to prepare livestock health & welfare plan.
- K9: The different types of grasses, forage crops and bought in feed used to support livestock nutrition and how to assess and manage them for optimum performance.
- K10: The importance and methods of ensuring that the movement of livestock is planned and communicated clearly to all relevant parties.
- K11: Welfare requirements of livestock in accommodation at different stages of production cycle and how they can be achieved, including management of manure
- K12: The market factors such as price, supply chain requirements, new legislation and relevant industry welfare codes, and the impact these have on the business
- K13: Range of stakeholders relevant to farm business and their potential impact on business success
- K14: The importance and practice of safely and effectively selecting and preparing livestock for sale or transfer
- K15: Operating instructions and legal requirements for operating commonly used farm vehicles with a range of attachments. For example, tractor, ATV, quad bike.
- K16: The 5 welfare needs of animals: a. its need for a suitable environment b. its need for a suitable diet (and water) c. Its need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns d. any need to be housed

with, or apart from, other animals in appropriate social groupings e. its need to be protected from fear, pain, suffering, injury and disease (including the different methods of euthanasia depending on livestock species)

- K17: Impact of farm working practices on social, economic and environmental sustainability, including a basic understanding of how to contribute to government-led sustainability targets.

Skills

- S1: Plan, implement, monitor and review health and safety of self, others and livestock; including risk assessments and biosecurity policy.
- S2: Manage, monitor and evaluate the financial viability of delivered diets, using relevant resources
- S3: Maintain, analyse and utilize production records (both written and digital) to improve productivity and aid compliance
- S4: Implement breeding plan, monitor and manage the physical condition and check that selected stock are in the correct condition for breeding.
- S5: Use the most appropriate technology or digital system (for example, robotic milking, EID tagging, GPS tracking) to ensure that livestock performance is optimised, and its health and welfare is maintained.
- S6: Prepare, maintain and operate farm vehicles, and attachments, in different environmental and ground conditions
- S7: Carry out day-to-day management of unit conforming to current welfare legislation and current industry welfare codes, including planning for personnel and undertake key activities, to meet KPI's
- S8: Implement, monitor, manage and review livestock health & welfare plan.
- S9: Ensure that grass and forage crops are of the appropriate quality and quantity in accordance with farm KPIs
- S10: Plan, implement, monitor and review movement of livestock at different stages of production cycle, including preparation of movement documents and allocating resource
- S11: Plan and implement cleaning procedures across the livestock unit, including management of manure and manage livestock in accommodation
- S12: Implement changes to policy and working practice, based on market factors such as price, supply chain requirements and new legislation
- S13: Establish and maintain relationships with stakeholders to support business operation and development
- S14: Select and prepare livestock for sale or transfer in accordance with health and safety requirements.
- S15: Identify need for euthanasia, contact relevant professionals and complete necessary paperwork
- S16: Identify hazards and risks in the workplace, prepare risk assessments and demonstrate high level of health and safety awareness at all times.

Behaviours

- B1: Acts responsibly to provide a high standard of welfare and biosecurity to livestock, self and others under their care
- B2: Have a team-based work ethic
- B3: Is customer focused
- B4: Proactively undertakes continuous professional development
- B5: Able to adapt to change in conditions, technologies, situations and working environments.
- B6: A clear and effective communicator
- B7: Able to give/receive information accurately, timely and in a positive manner
- B8: Ability to use own initiative and know when to seek help
- B9: Work proactively with internal and external people to achieve positive outcomes
- B10. Acts responsibly to provide a high standard of welfare and biosecurity to livestock and crops under their care.

Qualifications

The following qualifications would be required prior to end point assessment:

- Level 3 Award in emergency first aid at work
- Pesticides: City & Guilds Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides Guidance or Lantra Safe use of Pesticide
- Level 2 in Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines

End Point Assessment

At a point where employer, tutor and apprentice feel is appropriate, apprentices will undertake an end point assessment, which is carried out by a separate approved organisation, independent from Myerscough College.

The end point assessment will contain 3 components:

- Multiple Choice Test
- Observation with Questions
- Professional discussion (underpinned by a portfolio of evidence)

There will be 2 levels of achievement: Pass & Distinction

In the unlikely event of an apprentice needing to resit an End Point Assessment (or elements of the End Point Assessment), then the employer will be responsible for funding these additional costs.

What's Next? How to Apply

In order to start the enrolment process, we need an **Online Application Form** to be completed & submitted. You can do this by contacting the Employer Services Team.

Telephone: 01995 642255

Email: employerenquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk