



Level:	Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2)
Typical Duration:	18 Months
Delivery Model:	Work-based supported by Workshops
Delivery Location:	North West Only
Start Date:	Throughout the Year



Introduction to the Programme

Businesses within the agriculture industry range from small family farms through to large integrated organisations working across the food supply chain. The key role for a Stockperson is to raise the animals with optimal welfare and consideration for their needs throughout the different stages of their life. This is practical work involving a combination of technology and manual labour. Being a stockperson requires compassion, self-motivation and the ability to work in a team and independently. A stockperson will be responsible for their own work, but will have close supervision. As animal welfare is a priority on a farm, the key to being a good stockperson is understanding your limits and knowing when to ask for help. Working with live animals presents a range of challenges to overcome and ensures no two days will be the same. This standard follows a 'core and options' approach. The core covers the generic requirements for looking after animals competently and the sector options provide more specific needs for different livestock. One option will be taken in addition to the core skills to complete this apprenticeship, which provides a solid foundation for a range of progression opportunities within the industry.



Duration

This apprenticeship will typically take 18 months to complete. The length may be altered if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector.



Entry requirements

Employers set the selection criteria for their apprentices. Typically, this will include a minimum of 5 GCSE's at Grade 9-4, or equivalent, including English and Maths. Apprentices without level 1 Functional Skills will need to achieve this level as part of their apprenticeship.



In addition, it is desirable that the apprentice has a basic understanding of Information and Communication Technology.



Costs

Costs will be dependent on several factors such as age of apprentice and size of employer. The cost may be altered if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector. Please contact us for more information.



Delivery Location

Delivery is work-based supported by Workshops at Myerscough College, Preston Campus approximately once a fortnight. College attendance will count towards the 20% off the job training requirement. An apprentice will also need to attend college courses to complete the required qualifications.



Qualifications

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

- Level 3 award in emergency first aid at work.
- Pesticides: Level 2 Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides Guidance (PA1)
- On completion of PA1 foundation unit above, you can also choose either:
 - Boom sprayer, mounted, trailed or self-propelled equipment (PA2a) **OR**
 - Handheld applicator equipment (Pa6a)

To comply with legislation / industry standards, individuals who wish to work in some sectors of the industry may have to complete additional certificates of training, statutory licences and health and safety approved competency cards in order to be permitted on to a worksite.



Knowledge, Skills & Behaviour gained

Throughout the programme, apprentices will work towards gaining the following knowledge, skills & behaviours:

Knowledge

Have a knowledge of:

- Health and safety legislation, and codes of practice in relation to the job role/ workplace including contingency/emergency plans
- Practical health and safety information to ensure everyone is safe in the workplace
- Safe operation of a relevant farm vehicle
- Relevant animal welfare codes of practice (including five freedoms), legislation and company policies
- Importance of relevant record keeping systems and storage
- Awareness of input costs, cost of production and margins



- Awareness of key performance indicators (farm and industry averages)
- High standards of hygiene and biosecurity
- Signs of ill health and welfare issues and the action required to mitigate (including referrals where appropriate)
- Safe use of veterinary medicines, including the importance of correct dosage / application of antibiotics and anthelmintic
- Breed differences and characteristics
- Environmental needs of the animals including housing and accommodation and the impact of any change
- Correct feed and water for relevant livestock and growth stage
- Production cycle of livestock
- Correct procedures for breeding, feeding, handling, selection, moving and transporting of livestock to include appreciation of animal needs and behaviours in a variety of circumstances
- Impact of stockpersons behaviour on livestock
- Security procedures for the unit
- Safe and effective maintenance of equipment
- Importance of good environmental practice
- Procedures for maintaining sufficient stock
- How technology can assist business efficiency
- Customers' and assurance scheme requirements
- Supply chains in which they are working

Skills

(further knowledge for career pathways below)

Have the ability to:

- Promote and maintain health, safety and security both personally and across the site including correct first aid responses
- Use appropriate technology to support your role
- Keep accurate records relevant to job role
- Prepare and operate machinery and other equipment for safe and efficient use
- Implement and monitor site bio-security (including isolation) as per farm plan
- Prepare accommodation for incoming livestock including cleaning and disinfecting
- Monitor and maintain the health and welfare of livestock
- Administer treatments, where appropriate, as per farm health plan
- Competently operate (to certified level) a relevant vehicle used in the business
- Feed stock according to instruction
- Assess the condition and behaviour of animals at feeding
- Provide water of sufficient quality and quantity
- Prepare livestock and facilities for transfer as appropriate
- Handle and restrain livestock in a safe and appropriate manner
- Move animals without causing undue stress
- Identify signs of heat
- Monitor and maintain livestock during pregnancy
- Monitor and maintain the care of livestock during and after birth with assistance where appropriate



Behaviours

Have the required behaviours including:

- Have a strong work ethic including pride in work, attention to detail, integrity, honesty, time management, loyalty and respect for others
- Positive attitude, motivated, dependable, ethical, responsible, flexible and reliable
- A willingness to learn and contribute to their own continuing professional development
- Provide high standard of welfare to the livestock under their care and be accountable for their own actions
- Able to adapt to change in conditions, technologies, situations and working environments
- Willingness to accept changing priorities and work patterns when new jobs need to be done, or requirements change
- A clear and effective communicator
- Able to give/receive information accurately, timely and in a positive manner
- Work and contribute effectively in a team
- Ability to work on own initiative and know when to seek help when appropriate
- Work proactively with internal and external people to achieve positive outcomes
- Embrace a safety culture and apply proactively to self, colleagues and visitors



Options – Skills

Pigs

SKILLS – Will be able to:

- Identify animals appropriately
- Store and use livestock semen appropriately
- Carry out Artificial insemination on livestock/supervise natural mating
- Administer relevant treatments to animals such as vaccination and euthanasia
- Assess/respond to ventilation needs

Dairy

SKILLS – Will be able to:

- Prepare livestock for and carry out milking
- Recognise mastitis and respond appropriately
- Assess lameness and respond appropriately
- Carry out calf disbudding
- Identify animals correctly (including tagging procedures)

Beef

SKILLS – Will be able to:

- Identify animals correctly (including tagging procedures)
- Assess lameness and respond appropriately
- Carry out calf disbudding



Sheep

SKILLS – Will be able to:

- Prepare for shearing/wool handling
- Carry out crutching
- Identify animals correctly (including electronic identification device tagging procedures)
- Assess lameness and treat as appropriate
- Carry out tail docking and castration as appropriate



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:

- Online Multiple Choice Test
- Workplace observation of practical tasks
- Professional Discussion

There will be 3 levels of achievement: Pass, Merit & 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.



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