

Agriculture

BTEC Level 3

STUDY MODE
Full time

LOCATION
Moulton

LEVEL
Level 3

START DATE
Sept 2025

DURATION
2 years



The Agriculture Industry is one of continuous development and innovation.

If working with the land, plant and crop cultivation, livestock care and farm management interests you then this course will set you on track to start your career in Agriculture.

Our Level 3 Diploma in Agriculture students have access to an exciting range of specialist resources at the College, with over 440 hectares of farmed estate on a range of soil types our fully equipped workshops have a range of machinery including tractors, forklifts and all-terrain vehicles.

Guided by our expert staff and guest lecturers you'll use our extensive farmed estate to develop your knowledge in farm management and diversification.

As part of your course you will undertake commercial experience, where you will learn and develop practical skills that will be vital for your future in agriculture and farm management.

What will I learn on the course?

This course will provide you with extensive knowledge of farm management and diversification.

You will learn vital livestock husbandry and crop production skills as well as an in depth look at the anatomy and physiology of the animals in your keep. We will provide you with excellent plant and soil science to ensure your crops remain healthy.

You will also learn how to maintain working farming machinery and you will have to complete work experience at a relevant organisation or farm.

Year 1 (with English and maths retakes)

Unit

Aims

| Unit | Aims |
|---|---|
| Professional Working Responsibilities | <p>This is an exam module. You will study professional responsible working practices with a focus on ensuring health and safety, wellbeing, resource management and waste management in the land-based sectors introduce learners to estate skills and knowledge and how these can be applied in practice.</p> <p>You will develop skills in and knowledge of good practice and professional responsibility towards self and others in the workplace, including the duty of care for the environment, relating this to resource efficiency and responsible management.</p> |
| Work Experience in the land-based sectors | <p>This is an assignment based module, with 2 assignments. You will examine how good communication and employability skills can improve your prospects in gaining and staying in employment.</p> <p>You will learn how and where to access information about employment vacancies and further courses of study as well as how to develop your curriculum vitae (CV) and adapt it for specific vacancies.</p> <p>You will also learn how to develop good communication, interview and customer service skills.</p> |
| Estate Skills | <p>This is an assignment based module, with 2 assignments. You will manage estates skills activities, including the planning and implementation of projects carried out by you or others, such as staff or professional contractors.</p> <p>You will develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage the repair, maintenance and installation of the fabric of businesses and organisations that work in the countryside.</p> <p>For this unit you will need to draw on your learning from across the curriculum in Year 1 of your course.</p> |
| Machinery Operations | <p>This is an assignment based module, with 2 assignments. In this unit, you will explore machines relevant to your particular sector of the industry, developing practical skills and understanding of the different conditions in which machinery might need to operate.</p> <p>You will learn how to carry out pre-start checks and maintenance on these machines as well as the safe use and operation of the machine for a variety of tasks.</p> <p>The skills and knowledge gained in this unit will help you to manage the potential dangers involved in operating land-based machinery, and enable you to carry out tasks in a way that prioritises safety and consideration of environmental impact.</p> |

| Unit | Aims |
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| Applied Agriculture | <p>This is an assignment based module, with 3 assignments. In this unit, you will produce a farm practice management plan that aims to develop farm productivity levels.</p> <p>You will draw on your broader knowledge and understanding of agricultural practise, along with new specialist knowledge and skills developed in this unit relating to crop and livestock production.</p> |

Year 2 (with English and maths retakes)

| Unit | Aims |
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| Plant & Soil Science | <p>This is an exam module. You will develop an understanding of external and internal plant structures, including plant cells, and about the relationship between these structures and their function.</p> <p>You will gain an understanding of important life processes of plants and how these are affected by their environment.</p> <p>You will also learn about the physical and chemical characteristics of soils as well as different types of soil their characteristics and the essential nutrition in soils that plants need to ensure their success.</p> |
| Managing Environmental Activities in Agriculture | <p>This is an assignment based module with 2 assignments. In this unit, you will study the changes in farming practices and their impact on the environment.</p> <p>You will undertake habitat and species surveys to measure this impact. Building on your learning from across the qualification, including soil management, plant growth science and land-based and farming practices, you will then undertake a key vocational task for agricultural and land workers.</p> <p>You will plan and carry out habitat management in order to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on the environment.</p> |

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|---|--|
| Health & Disease | <p>Study the causes, signs and treatments of illness and disease in livestock, along with how pathogens and parasites grow, reproduce and cause infection.</p> <p>This will help you to understand infection identification and control, and the different treatment options available. You will explore practical ways to assess and manage livestock health, including assessment techniques, how to apply basic treatments and implementation of preventative measures.</p> <p>You will learn about the importance of, and skills involved in, planning strategies for managing livestock health along with monitoring and recording health and health care interventions. This will help you to promote and maintain the health status and productivity of livestock species.</p> |
| Managing Activities in Agricultural Enterprises | <p>Explore the operation of an agricultural enterprise, its purpose and objectives. Building on learning from across the qualification, including land-based and farming practices, environment management, estates skills and contractor, you will develop the skills required to be able to step up to the role of managing the operation.</p> <p>You will carry out an evaluation of the management processes and your management activities. You will use your evaluation to prepare recommendations for possible improvements to the management processes and to produce a personal development plan.</p> |
| Grass & Forage Crop | <p>Investigate in detail crops of local importance as well as the wide range of grass and forage crops produced across the UK.</p> <p>You will investigate the husbandry requirements of a range of forage crops, their botanical and agronomic characteristics, harvesting and storage, together with their nutritional value.</p> <p>You will consider wider agronomic and environmental issues, such as the use of grazing animals for habitat management. You will also consider the husbandry of forage crops, and study their establishment, use and management.</p> <p>This unit will give you the opportunity to undertake practical grazing management tasks and to make relevant recommendations for a forage crop.</p> <p>You will research the harvesting, storage and utilisation of forage crops by a range of livestock species, developing a sound understanding of yield and nutritive content as methods of evaluating the potential feed value of forage crops for feeding livestock.</p> |

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| Sheep Production | Investigate different sheep production systems for hill, upland and lowland sheep, the regulations governing the transportation of livestock, and the need to record medicine usage and all tasks and treatments carried out. |
| | You will carry out routine feeding and husbandry tasks throughout the production cycle as part of the management of breeding lambs and newborn lambs, including making up a flock and preparations for tuppung, and managing a flock through to lambing. |
| | You will find out how production affects animal welfare and develop skills in meeting the nutritional requirements of sheep at different stages in the production cycle, including feed ingredients and ration formulation. |
| You will develop a clear understanding of the legal, economic and environmental factors that contribute to decision making in sheep production. This will allow you to make informed decision in relation to future sheep production. | |
| Beef Production | Investigate the types of production system used across the UK, and the process of breeding and rearing animals for beef and associated products. |
| | You will explore the different breeds and their production characteristics, and the importance of selecting suitable breeds. You will carry out routine feeding and husbandry tasks throughout the production cycle as part of the management of calves and adult animals. |
| | You will find out how production affects animal welfare and develop skills in meeting the nutritional requirements of cattle at different stages in the production cycle, including feed ingredients and ration formulation. |
| You will develop a clear understanding of the legal, economic and environmental factors, health and safety and welfare legislation that contribute to decision making in beef production. This will allow you to make informed decisions in relation to future beef production. | |

What will this course cost me?

You will be required to buy Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for this course. For a full list of equipment required [click here](#).

What does a typical week look like?

This is a full time course taking place on three to four days per week from 9am - 4:30pm. There will be a mix of practical and theoretical work which are split into 1 hour - 2 hour lessons.

How will I be assessed?

Vocational and professional qualifications are taught through college based theory and practical lessons with further learning and understanding developed via directed self-study.

Assessment consists of internally set coursework and assignments, although some professional and vocational qualifications may require the achievement of externally set assessments.

Where can it lead to?

You could progress to university studies or employment as a Farmer, Agronomist, Farm Manager, Livestock Producer, Dairyman, Herdsman, Agricultural Insurance Broker, Agricultural Machinery Sales Agent, Agricultural Machinery Operator or Contractor. There are so many career opportunities!

What are the entry requirements for this course?

Four GCSEs at grade 9-4 (A*-C), including English, maths and science.

Visit this course on our website: <https://www.moulton.ac.uk/courses/pndag/agriculture-btec-level-3>

For further information please contact the college: <https://www.moulton.ac.uk/contact>