


Course Title:	 BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Agriculture
Level and accrediting examining body:	Level 2 Edexcel
Length of course:	September 2011 - June 2013
Method of assessment:	A variety of methods will be used, including assignments, practical observations and time-constrained assessments.
Performance Points	80-110
Date of final examination:	Continuous assessment - no examinations

The vocational courses delivered at The Warriner School Farm help to develop a wide range of personal, social and work-related skills. The aim is to increase the student's confidence, provide new experiences, help the student to move on to a higher level of education or work based learning, as well as to provide the student with an industry recognised qualification. The courses are ideally suited to those students who would benefit from learning via a vocational route and who learn best in a practical situation.

The course is delivered and assessed at the Warriner School Farm and makes use of the tasks associated with the livestock enterprises, the husbandry associated with growing agricultural crops and the general maintenance tasks associated with the estate.

The qualification is equivalent to 2 GCSEs A* - C and will suit students that are expected to achieve at below their potential in a classroom situation.



Programme content (3 units):

Introduction to Animal and Plant Husbandry

Learners will investigate how good husbandry affects the health and welfare of farm animals. They will also learn how to assess animal health, and identify the factors that contribute to it. They will develop the practical skills needed to provide food and water to farm animals, as well as an understanding of the importance of feed plans and the factors affecting them. Learners will explore crop husbandry. They will cover the annual crop production cycle and the factors affecting growth and yield and look at crop health, including the need for nutrients, and the impact of weeds, pests and disease.

Introduction to Land-based Machinery Operation

The unit emphasises practical skills using tractors, power units and machinery, covering the essential skills of preparing, operating and maintaining tractors, equipment and machinery. Learners will firstly learn to recognise the different machinery that is available to use for a range of tasks. They will then learn how to prepare the machinery, use it in realistic situations and finally maintain it ready for use again. They will also learn about the main legislative and environmental requirements that are increasingly important in the land-based industry of today.

Participate in Providing Estate maintenance

This unit aims to develop practical skills in the use of hand tools and equipment, together with those required to maintain boundaries and surfaces or habitats. Throughout this unit learners will be made aware of the health and safety implications of the work they are carrying out and its possible impact on the environment. They will learn the importance of risk assessment, keeping themselves and those around them safe and using personal protective equipment. They will also gain an overview of environmental and health and safety legislation and the consequences of not adhering to these. On the achievement of this unit, learners will be able to complete a variety of basic maintenance and repair tasks.

Progression opportunities:

Successful students would be able to progress to more in depth level 2 and level 3 qualifications in a land-based subject either: BTEC Level 2 Diploma or BTEC Level 3 Certificate/Diplomas or City & Guilds Level 2 & 3 Certificates/Diplomas.