

Module code: MOD011195	Version: 1 Date Amended: 17/Jun/2025
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1. Module Title
High Welfare Animal Production

2a. Module Leader
Harriet Wishart

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module provides you with a solid foundation in high-welfare animal production systems, focusing on the key principles that support both animal well-being and sustainable production. Within the UK livestock industry, systems vary widely, yet all must address critical issues including food security, ethical animal treatment, environmental stewardship, and resource efficiency. By exploring these diverse systems, you will develop the knowledge needed to support responsible livestock management in the context of current industry demands, regulatory standards, and consumer expectations for high welfare.

You will therefore gain an understanding of husbandry practices, animal health, system differences and sustainable farm management through a range of practical activities including evaluation of commercial farms and analysis of farm datasets.

This module is designed so you can gain the knowledge and understanding of the complexities of UK livestock systems and their management at the farm level.

Through practical activities, you will develop data handling skills using 'real life' farm data sets e.g. assessing disease trends from farm health data and benchmarking farm production figures.

Skills gained at our campus farm and visits to commercial units are key parts of this module, as you will learn how to spot risks to animal health and welfare and assess farm systems.

6b. Outline Content

- Understanding the scale and nature of UK livestock farming.
- Exploring the detail and differences of livestock production systems within and between livestock species.
- Important livestock diseases and the importance of biosecurity measures to reduce incidence.
- Farm data types, collection techniques, and tools for benchmarking and monitoring health and productivity
- Overview of UK assurance schemes, welfare legislation, and industry standards (e.g., Red Tractor, RSPCA Assured)
- Considering sustainability of production and where different approaches can be applied, e.g. principles of regenerative agriculture.
- Welfare assessment techniques and practical examples from on-farm visits.
- Visits to commercial livestock production farms.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Explain and evaluate different production systems and practices.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Appraise the concepts of disease prevention and control involved in farm health planning.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Competently collect, handle and devise meaning from farm production data

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	36	1-3	3hr lectures x12
Other teacher managed learning	6	1-3	Visits and practicals distributed across both trimesters
Student managed learning	108	1-3	Self-directed learning, set reading, background reading, and assignments.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
3,000 words Case Study (3000 words) - Farm health plan for the allocated species (herd or flock of animals)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]