

Course Title:	NPA Rural Skills
Level:	National 5
Campus:	Arbroath
Days:	
Start Date:	May 2016
End Date:	May 2017

Units to be completed

Pupils will get the opportunity to go with Option 1 or Option 2. Class groups will follow the same option either Horticulture or Agriculture.

Units:
Mandatory - Rural Business Investigation
Option 1 - Horticulture: Horticulture Skills
Option 1 - Horticulture: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings
Option 2 - Agriculture: Crop Production
Option 2 - Agriculture: Livestock Production

Progression Pathways

- SVQs/ NVQs in Appropriate Land-based sector vocational areas
- Programmes in Further Education Colleges
- Other suitable Training or Employment

Course Description

The qualification allows pupils the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge relating to one area of the land-based sector, either in Agriculture or Horticulture and to develop knowledge and understanding of how a rural business operates.

Much of the learning will be by experience gained from undertaking practical tasks in an outdoor environment although there will be some theoretical classroom sessions as well.

Successful completion of this qualification can provide you with an opportunity to progress to a full-time course in your chosen specialism.

Unit Contents

Unit	Description
Rural Business Investigation	This unit allows pupils to develop some of the basic knowledge and understanding of the skills and operations in relation to a specific local rural business. The unit provides an opportunity for pupils to focus in on a specific enterprise of a local land based business as well as giving consideration to the sustainability of the business and alternative enterprises available to it.
Horticulture: Horticulture Skills	This unit is designed to provide the candidate with a range of practical skills in horticulture and to provide the knowledge and understanding which underpins these horticultural practices. Pupils will have an opportunity to carry out a range of garden maintenance tasks, plant propagation practices and turf maintenance operations.
Horticulture: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings	This unit will enable the pupil to select, use, establish and maintain a range of plants. The plant groups include ground cover plants; bulbs; annuals; seasonal bedding; wall shrubs and climbers; and mixed border plantings. The unit can be delivered in a variety of settings including parks, gardens and estates. The unit is designed to provide the pupil with a range of practical skills in planting and maintaining an area and to provide the knowledge and understanding which underpins these horticultural practices.
Agriculture: Crop Production	<p>This unit allows pupils to develop some of the basic knowledge and skills in relation to field crop production in the UK. The unit will cover the basic production practices for one selected crop and the use of machinery in crop production. The unit will also enable pupils to develop basic crop husbandry skills.</p> <p>Suitable for pupils with no previous knowledge of agriculture, but who want to develop or further develop their knowledge of crop production systems and practices.</p>

Agriculture: Livestock Production

This unit allows pupils to develop some of the basic knowledge and skills in relation to farm livestock production in the UK. The unit will cover the basic production practices and associated husbandry skills for one type of livestock. Pupils will also learn about the use of equipment and machinery in livestock production. This unit is designed for pupils who want to develop or further develop their knowledge of livestock production systems and practices and is suitable for pupils with no previous knowledge of agriculture.

Assessment Method

The units require pupils to develop a portfolio of evidence and this unit may lend itself to the development of an e-portfolio which could be combined with some of the theoretical assessment components of the pupil's option specialist choice. In some of the option choices, there is scope for e-learning and e-assessment of theoretical components. However, in the case of practical activities, e-assessment is not appropriate.