



# MCAST

Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology

MQF Level 1

AG1-01-19

**Introductory Certificate in Animal Husbandry and  
Horticultural Skills**

**Course Specification**

## **Course Description**

This course is intended for school leavers in possession of the School Leaving Certificate. The programme, although basic, equips students with a range of skills enabling them to begin to understand what various land-based animal and crop activities involve.

The student will have the opportunity to handle a variety of farm animals as well as work on crop fields and fruit trees. The course includes topics about soil management, establishing crops, animal management, and livestock nutrition and farm maintenance.

The student will have the opportunity to feed various animals such as rabbits and poultry, incubate eggs and hatch chicks. This course offers the required hands-on experience in the horticulture and animal husbandry sector.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the programme the students are able to

1. *Understand how to handle and take care of small animals and pets.*
2. *Carry out on site practical work related to specific farm animals.*
3. *Undertake practical tasks using horticultural skills.*
4. *Understand the basic skills needed in taking care of a small garden.*

## **Entry Requirements**

- Finished Compulsory Education

## **Other Entry Requirements**

- Initial Assessment Tests

## Current Approved Programme Structure

<b>Unit Title</b>	<b>ECVET</b>
Introduction to Animal Husbandry	6
Introduction to Horticulture	6
Mathematics	5
English	5
Malti	5
Information Technology	5
Individual and Social Responsibility	3
Science	5
<b>Total ECVET</b>	<b>40</b>

## Unit: Introduction to Animal Husbandry

**Unit level (MQF):** 1  
**Credits :** 6

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### Unit Description

This unit will provide learners with basics knowledge and skills in animal husbandry. Skills in animal husbandry are necessary for economically and technologically efficient animal breeding. The breeding of animals has an important role in the production of food and raw materials for the processing industry. In many cases, even small production units in animal husbandry can provide sufficient income of a family. This is especially true for producers of well-established added value products like cheese, sausage or salami.

In this unit learners will become familiar with the animal species which are the most important for agribusiness. Learners will be acquainted with the basic animal anatomy with special emphasis on reproductive and digestive organs. Therefore, learners will understand the animal reproduction cycle and sexing of small animals. They will also learn about different foodstuffs and meal preparation under supervision and in accordance with detailed instructions. In addition, learners will be introduced to the basic knowledge related to an animal's requirements for feed, water, care and housing. As well as the animal's feeding and watering equipment and the basics of animal housing on micro and large scale.

Finally, this unit will also introduce learners to the basics of record keeping in animal husbandry, thus giving learners a taste of management skills in animal husbandry.

### Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit the learner will be able to

1. *Describe the basic anatomical features of the most important animals for animal husbandry on the Maltese Islands.*
2. *Outline the basic animal reproduction processes and phases.*
3. *Describe the animal's digestive system and feed requirements.*
4. *Understand the animal's requirements for water and accommodation.*
5. *Describe the basic tools and equipment used in animal husbandry.*

## Unit: Introduction to Horticulture

<b>Unit level (MQF):</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Credits :</b>	<b>6</b>

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### Unit Description

Horticultural skills are well recognised in the agribusiness labour market. Horticulture has always been considered as a sector with opportunities either for self-employment or additional employment, especially in rural areas close to urban or touristic centres.

Horticulture encompasses the growing of fruits, vegetables, grape, olives, and ornamental plants. In many of the cases, primary horticultural production serves as a basis for production of added value food processing or pharmaceutical products.

In this unit, learners will be introduced to the kingdom of plants, the main plant families and genera of horticultural plants. Learners will learn the basics of plant morphology, biology, and physiology. In this unit learners will become acquainted with the basic factors that influence horticultural production such as climate conditions and soil characteristics.

Learners will also be given basic knowledge about commonly applied techniques and the different phases in plant growing. Learners will become familiar with a number of techniques related to land preparation and cultivation, such as plant propagation, seeding and planting of commonly grown plants as well as techniques related to plant care during the process of growing and formation in different seasons. Learners following this unit will practice the above techniques in the field and workshops.

### Learning Outcomes

**On completion of this unit the learner will be able to**

- 1. Describe the main morphological differences between the most common vegetables and ornamental horticultural plants.*
- 2. Describe key characteristics of the main soil types in the Maltese Islands.*
- 3. Outline simple techniques in land preparation and plant care.*
- 4. Understand basic plant propagation techniques.*