

COURSE STRUCTURE

You must complete 10 units to gain the Diploma of Agriculture.

- a minimum of five (5) units must come from group A
- a minimum of three (3) units must come from groups A or B
- a maximum of two (2) units may be selected from units aligned to Certificate IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma in AHC or from any other currently endorsed Training Package or accredited course. Selected units must be relevant to job outcomes in agriculture.

Please note some subjects listed below cluster multiple units.

For full packaging rules see <http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC50116>

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Tocal College suggests four (4) foundation subjects be completed before selecting electives.

AHCAGB505 Develop a whole farm plan (Group A)

AHCSOL501 Monitor and manage soils for production (Group A)

AHCAGB501 Develop climate risk management strategies (Group A)

AHCWHS501 Manage work health and safety processes (Group A)

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Livestock

AHCLSK505 Develop production plans for livestock (Group A)

AHCLSK503 Develop and implement a breeding strategy (Group A)

AHCLSK504 Develop livestock health and welfare strategies (Group A)

Crop and Pasture

Develop a crop production plan

AHCBAC507 Develop production plans for crops (Group A)

AHCBAC505 Plan and manage long term weed, pest and/or disease control in crops (Group A)

AHCBAC503 Manage integrated crop and pasture production (Group A)

AHCBAC508 Apply plant biology to agronomic practices (Group A)

Business

AHCAGB502 Plan and manage infrastructure requirements (Group B)

AHCBUS502 Market products and services (Group B)

AHCBUS501 Manage Staff (Group A)

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

AHCAGB505 Develop a whole farm plan (Group A)

In this subject you will develop a whole farm plan including a map (either electronic or hard copy). This will include:

- an audit of the natural resources of the property
- monitoring legal requirements impacting on the management of the property
- developing management strategies to address the key natural resource management issues of water, soils, vegetation and wildlife
- developing management strategies to address natural resource management issues
- integrating business objectives and production plans with sustainable land management in a whole farm plan.

AHCSOL501 Monitor and manage soils for production (Group A)

In this subject you will develop a soil management plan. This will include:

- interpreting soil analytical data for the purposes of developing management or production plans
- developing and conducting soil improvement programs
- reviewing and analysing ongoing soil monitoring programs.

AHCAGB501 Develop climate risk management strategies (Group A)

In this subject you will develop a climate risk management plan. This will include:

- researching climate and enterprise data
- analysing and interpret climate and enterprise data
- preparing risk management strategies
- integrating climate risk and opportunities for management strategies at a business management level.

AHCWHS501 Manage work health and safety processes (Group A)

- develop work health and safety policies and procedures
- establish and maintain processes to ensure the participation of all employees in the application of work health and safety
- establish and maintain procedures for identifying hazards and assessing risks
- implement interim risk control measures until a better or permanent control measure is developed
- plan and manage enterprise procedures for dealing with hazardous events
- establish and maintain a work health and safety induction and training program
- establish and maintain a system for work health and safety records
- evaluate the enterprise work health and safety system and related policies, procedures and programs.

LIVESTOCK ELECTIVES

AHCLSK505 Develop production plans for livestock (Group A)

In this subject you will develop and implement a production plan for livestock. This will include:

- assess potential livestock enterprises for their market potential and gross margin returns
- define production objectives for the chosen livestock enterprise
- incorporate livestock selection, health and grazing strategies into production planning
- develop cash flow budgets and marketing strategies for the enterprise
- prepare the production plan.

Note: you must have access to a breeding unit (40 plus) of beef cows or its equivalent in other livestock to undertake this subject.

AHCLSK503 Develop and implement a breeding strategy (Group A)

In this subject you will develop and implement a livestock breeding program. This will include:

- defining the standard required to develop a breeding objective
- implementing selection strategies for livestock
- using industry programs to benchmark
- identifying sources of genetic material
- monitoring progress in a breeding program.

AHCLSK504 Develop livestock health and welfare strategies (Group A)

In this subject you will develop a livestock health and welfare strategy. This will include:

- designing and implementing preventative health treatment and programs for livestock
- defining the standard required to identify common livestock diseases
- developing prevention and treatment strategies for diseases
- handling and using veterinary medicines
- maintaining records of animal health treatment
- implementing a risk management approach to managing animal health.

CROP AND PASTURE ELECTIVES

Develop a crop production plan

AHCBAC507 Develop production plans for crops (Group A)

AHCBAC505 Plan and manage long-term weed, pest and/or disease control in crops (Group A)

In this subject you will develop a crop production plan. This will include:

- prepare budgets and gross margins
- source and interpret relevant benchmark
- information from consultants or peers
- sample soils and plant tissue for testing
- select crop species and variety and determine yield potential for crop
- prepare individual paddock plans and a whole farm cropping plan
- interpret information on pest and weed numbers, density and control
- establish processes/strategies, procedures and controls for long-term weed, pest and/or disease control
- implement and monitor long-term weed, pest and/or disease control strategies
- use records and observations to evaluate weed, pest and/or disease control strategies
- plan land use incorporating long term weed, pest and/or disease control strategies.

AHCBAC503 Manage integrated crop and pasture production (Group A)

In this subject you will develop a crop and pasture production plan. This will include:

- develop a pasture and crop program to meet production targets and enterprise objectives
- maintain the productivity of crops and pastures in a farming system
- monitor soil structure and erosion and make required changes to cultural practices and grazing management
- implement grazing strategies to optimise pasture and livestock production levels and support the cropping program
- evaluate grazing and cropping programs for efficiency and effectiveness
- use physical and financial records of production to evaluate production performance.

AHCBAC508 Apply plant biology to agronomic practices (Group A)

In this subject you will apply introductory plant biology to common agronomic practices. This will include:

- identifying botanical terminology of plant taxonomy
- applying the rules of plant nomenclature
- identifying a range of plants used in agronomy to species level
- using correct botanical terminology to discuss plant taxonomy in agronomic practices
- investigating and identifying plant cell structures, their functions and the organization of cells into primary tissues
- researching and documenting specialist botanical knowledge of plant morphology
- identifying critical growth stages for crop/pasture monitoring, nutrient assessment and spray applications.

Note: completion of this subject involves setting up and monitoring two small plant experiments.

BUSINESS ELECTIVES

AHCAGB502 Plan and manage infrastructure requirements (Group B)

In this subject you will:

- identify infrastructure requirements for the enterprise
- source, construct and/or modify infrastructure to meet enterprise requirements
- develop an infrastructure maintenance program including scheduling and responsibilities
- establish a recording system for infrastructure purchase, construction and maintenance.

AHCBUS502 Market products and services (Group A)

In this subject you will:

- identify the marketable features of the product and potential markets
- develop a range of marketing alternatives
- collect and analyse data to assess alternatives in a marketing plan
- evaluate performance targets and recommend modifications or improvements
- implement and evaluate a marketing plan
- plan to manage promotional activities.
- collect, analyse and present data in the internal and external business environment
- assess alternative marketing strategies and techniques to meet business plan objectives
- plan and implement a marketing strategy
- monitor product, pricing and distribution policies to improve market performance.

AHCBUS501 Manage staff (Group A)

In this subject you will:

- identify industrial relations requirements to ensure compliance with relevant award conditions
- negotiate contracts of employment
- determine the most employment arrangements for the employer and employee
- develop and deliver induction programs to support the new employee
- develop and implement communication strategies
- manage conflicts and resolve disputes
- develop and design safety policies
- develop strategies to identify and address skill and knowledge gaps
- implement procedures for the administration of staff records.