



# **Animal Production Systems General Course Year 12**

## **Selected Unit 3 syllabus content for the Externally set task 2024**

This document is an extract from the *Animal Production Systems Course Year 12 syllabus*, featuring all of the content for Unit 3. The content that has been highlighted in the document is the content on which the Externally set task (EST) for 2024 will be based.

All students enrolled in the course are required to complete an EST. The EST is an assessment task which is set by the Authority and distributed to schools for administering to students. The EST will be administered in schools during Term 2, 2024 under standard test conditions. The EST will take 50 minutes.

The EST will be marked by teachers in each school using a marking key provided by the Authority. The EST is included in the assessment table in the syllabus as a separate assessment type with a weighting of 15% for the pair of units.

## Unit 3

Knowledge and management of animal production systems

### Systems ecology

- impact of animal production systems on natural ecosystems, including
  - the effects on soils
  - water quality
  - atmospheric and soil pollution
  - loss of biodiversity
- effects of pesticides on the environment

### Animal structure and function

- processes of gastric digestion
- microbial digestion in herbivores

### Animal nutrition

- feed rations for maintenance, growth and reproduction

### Animal health

- impact of pests and diseases on production systems
- life cycles of external and internal pests and diseases
- assessment of pest and disease risk
- biosecurity measures to reduce risk from pests and diseases
- factors influencing pest and disease control programs

### Breeding and improvement

- aims of breeding and selection, including
  - profitability
  - market requirements
  - environmental conditions
- sources of genetic variation
- selection criteria, including subjective and objective characteristics

### Economics, finance and markets

- quantity and value of domestic animal production
- marketing options for animal products
- assessment of resources used in enterprises

### **Sustainable production**

- maintaining and improving the quality of soil and water
- stewardship of natural and farming resources, including technologies
- complying with industry codes of practice

### **Investigating animal production**

- develop hypotheses to test based on prior information
- design and conduct an investigation, considering aspects of experimental design, including variables and controls
- analyse and interpret data, including calculating means
- present data using appropriate methods
- draw conclusions based on experimental data and validate from other sources

### **Produce for purpose**

- implement a calendar of operations for a selected animal enterprise
- identify legal requirements of owning livestock