

MODULE 1

South African dairy farming environment

FARMWORKER AND SUPERVISOR MODULE

During this course, students will learn about the dairy industry value chain, with the first stage consisting of commercial as well as small and medium-sized producers. Dairy farmers' production systems need to combine productivity and profitability, while protecting human and animal health, animal welfare and the environment. Students will also learn about the various dairy breeds that exist. The aim when choosing the breed and production system should, therefore, be to produce the best-quality milk at the lowest possible cost. Lastly, the training will also touch on the basic concepts and ideas of a dairy farming business, as it is crucial for a dairy farm to adopt and implement the relevant business skills. **NQF Level 2**

Knowledge

- Introduction to the South African dairy industry
- Dairy breeds
- Basic dairy farming business concepts

MODULE 2

Dairy calf and heifer rearing, feeding and healthcare

FARMWORKER AND SUPERVISOR MODULE

Heifer calves represent the future of a herd. By understanding the scientific principles of calf growth, nutrition, health and behaviour, producers can develop a successful management system. The importance of ensuring the welfare and biosecurity of future milking herds can never be overestimated. Students will learn how to design calf-rearing facilities to provide the required protection and comfort that calves need, while also maintaining hygiene to ensure the health and vitality of the calves. Because feeding is a crucial part of raising healthy and productive calves, students should be able to ensure good colostrum management and consistent feeding after completing module 2. The training will also cover diseases of calves and the relevant risk factors.

NQF Level 2, 3

Knowledge

- Introduction to dairy calf and heifer healthcare
- Calf rearing systems
- Hygiene and care for calves
- Calf feeding concepts
- Awareness of dairy calf diseases
- Calf and heifer care and production concepts

Practical skills

- Perform calf rearing and production practices
- Perform a systematic health inspection of the calf and heifer
- Administer basic animal health treatments on calves and heifers

Work experience

- Assist and observe an experienced person attending to the calves and heifers on a dairy farm for one week
- Attend to the calves and heifers for one week under close supervision
- Attend to the calves and heifers without supervision for two weeks

