

MODULE 4

Dairy animal production

FARMWORKER AND SUPERVISOR MODULE



Reproductive performance and efficiency has a direct impact on the productivity and profitability of a dairy farm and, therefore, students will receive guidance on how to set specific goals and plan thoroughly for reproduction. Selecting heifers and culling cows in a dairy herd must be based on the breeding and production goals set out by the farmer. As stress affects animal health and productivity, learners will be encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to minimising and avoiding stress factors. Handling facilities should be designed to avoid causing pain or unnecessary stress for the animal, while also ensuring maximum safety for the handler. Well-built and maintained fences are also considered, as they contribute to good management practices on the farm. Lastly, the course will cover the quality and availability of water, as it is essential for digestion and body function and can have an immense effect on animal health and productivity.

NQF Level 2, 3



Knowledge

- Animal herding and handling practices
- Dairy animal breeding concepts
- Water supply systems on dairy farms
- Fencing on a dairy farm



Practical skills

- Perform animal production and feeding practices on dry cows and bulls
- Select and prepare cows for artificial insemination or natural breeding



Work experience

- Assist and observe an experienced person attending to production activities pertaining to the cows and bulls on a dairy farm for one week
- Attend to the production activities pertaining to the cows and bulls for one week under supervision
- Attend to the production activities pertaining to the cows and bulls on a dairy farm within normal farm reporting structures and oversight for two weeks

