

MODULE 9

Dairy farm production management

MANAGER MODULE



The dairy farm manager needs to have a broad knowledge of a range of dairy farm activities in order to fully understand how it will impact the effectiveness of managerial decisions. This course starts with the different dairy farm designs available, the strengths and weaknesses of each, as well as how the correct utilisation of facilities will influence dairy farm processes. Reproductive performance has enormous consequences for the overall productivity and profitability of a dairy farm and, therefore, students will learn how to plan properly and set specific reproduction goals. Students will also gain an understanding of nutrient requirements of dairy cows at various stages of lactation as well as how to combine various feed ingredients to meet these requirements cost-effectively. Better feed efficiency and a scientifically balanced diet help to achieve maximum milk yield and increased production per cow. The training will also touch on animal health, as the total profitability of the dairy farm depends on a healthy herd. Animals need to be healthy to produce milk at optimal levels. Learning about biosecurity programmes can help managers prevent or reduce the risk of disease entering and spreading in their herd.

NQF Level 4, 5



Knowledge

- Dairy farm design concepts
- Dairy animal breeding
- Dairy animal nutrition
- Dairy animal health management
- Computer-based programs and the value of milk recording



Practical skills

- Implement herd composition objectives
- Implement healthcare policy
- Implement breeding policy
- Implement feeding policy
- Maintain a data management system
- Manage milk parlour routines
- Implement milk parlour quality management system



Work experience

- Assist with and observe dairy farming management for two weeks
- Perform dairy farm management activities under supervision for one month
- Manage the management of a dairy farm within normal structures and oversight for one month

