

## ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

*Sheet updated: September 2010*

<b>Module Code</b> 4002	<b>Module Title</b> Agriculture	<b>Module Leader</b> Dr Nicola Cannon
<b>School which owns module</b>	Agriculture	
<b>Programme(s) to which module belongs</b>	MSc Rural Estate Management (core)	
<b>Module Level</b> 7	<b>Module Credits</b> 15	<b>Pre-Requisites</b> None
<b>Minimum Study Time</b> 150 hours	<b>Contact Hours within Study Time</b> 50	<b>Teaching Period</b> October - May Monday morning
<p><b>Module Content</b></p> <p>Familiarisation with livestock, deadstock and growing crops, grasses, buildings and fixed equipment found on upland and lowland farms in the UK. <i>This will be fostered through farm classes and multimedia sessions.</i></p> <p>Enterprise outputs, husbandry requirements and fundamental variable costs for the main UK farm enterprises. Enterprises to be studied include: cereals, combinable break crops, grasses, forage crops and conserved forage, industrial crops; dairying, beef and sheep production; pigs and poultry. Farm machinery requirements, farm buildings, fixed equipment and farm waste management issues.</p> <p>Evaluation of physical and financial resources, gross margin interpretation including variation in gross margins due to land quality, production system, yields, prices and managerial abilities.</p> <p><i>Students will become familiar with the range of profitability from exemplification during lectures and will learn to recognise some of the variation across farms on farm visits.</i></p>		
<p><b>Module Outcomes</b></p> <p>(With reference to the main UK farm enterprises)</p> <p>To achieve credit for this module, students must be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate an understanding of the integration of the physical factors of production, including land, buildings, fixed equipment, labour and machinery.</li> <li>2. Evaluate husbandry requirements and demonstrate an application of the principles and systems of practical farming methods.</li> <li>3. Analyse gross margins and demonstrate understanding of the reasons for their variation.</li> </ol>		
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>Coursework</b>	Farm evaluation exercise	50%
<b>Examination</b>	3 hour written	50%
<p><b>Key Text:</b></p> <p>Students should be familiar with the content of at least one of the following:</p> <p>Agro Business Consultants (annual) <i>Agricultural Budgeting and Costing Book</i>. Agro Business Consultants.</p>		

Bell, B. (2005). *Farm Machinery*. (5th edition). Old Pond Publishing.

Finch, H.J.S., Samuel, A.M and Lane, G.P.F. (2002) *Lockhart and Wiseman's Crop Husbandry including Grassland*. (8th edition). Woodhead Publishing Ltd.

Francis, S.A. (2005). *British Field Crops: A Pocket Guide to the Identification, History and Uses of Traditional and Novel Arable Crops in Great Britain*. Published by Author.

McConnell, P. and Soffe, R.J. (2003). *The Agricultural Notebook*. (20th edition). Blackwell Science.

National Sheep Association (1998). *British Sheep*. (9th edition). National Sheep Association.

Nix, J. (annual) *Farm Management Pocketbook*. Imperial College at Wye. Outsider's Guides series.

Porter, V. (2002) *British Cattle*. Shire Publications Ltd. / Porter V (2008) *The Field Guide to Cattle*. Motorbooks International.

Prag, P.A.B (2001). *Understanding the British Countryside*. Estates Gazette.

SAC (annual) *Farm Management Handbook*. SAC.

#### **Other supporting information**

Additionally, module web pages will be available and, included in these, will be links to relevant internet sites such as DEFRA [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) and EBLEX [www.eblex.org.uk](http://www.eblex.org.uk) .