What is Agricultural Practices all about?

Agricultural Practices provides you with opportunities to explore, experience and learn knowledge and practical skills that are valued in agricultural workplaces. Through these experiences, you’ll build your understanding of what employers and colleagues expect in agricultural workplaces and develop your understanding of career pathways, jobs and other opportunities available for participating in and contributing to agriculture.

What will you learn?

Agricultural Practices includes two areas: ‘Animal studies’ and ‘Plant studies’. Your school will decide whether you will study one or both of these areas. Learning in the selected area/s will focus on building knowledge and skills needed when working in animal and/or plant industries.

In both ‘Animal studies’ and ‘Plant studies’, you will learn knowledge and skills fundamental to working in animal industries and plant industries, such as the locations of particular industries and environmental considerations for them, requirements for nutrition, and employment opportunities.

You will have opportunities to learn about at least one of these elective topics in ‘Animal studies’ and/or ‘Plant studies’:

- Infrastructure — water, animal health and welfare, plant production and processing
- Production — animal husbandry, growing and propagating plants, aquaculture
- Agribusiness — animal and/or plant products, market requirements for animal and/or plant products.

You will also learn ‘Safety and management practices’ to build your knowledge and skills for working safely, effectively and efficiently in agricultural situations:

- rules, regulations and recommendations — workplace health and safety requirements, and other rules, recommendations and regulations controlling agricultural activities
- equipment maintenance and operation — checking, cleaning storing and using equipment
- management practices — sustainable practices; following instructions; completing tasks on time; and working appropriately, effectively and efficiently with others.

If your school chooses, you may also have opportunities to learn to operate and maintain farm machinery, such as tractors and brush cutters.

How will you learn?

In Agricultural Practices, you will learn through practical application of knowledge, understanding and skills in real-world or lifelike agricultural activities. This approach provides you with opportunities to learn in, through and about agricultural workplaces, events and related activities.
How will you be assessed?

Assessment in Agricultural Practices gives you opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have learnt. You will give practical demonstrations of agricultural procedures, explain and analyse agricultural information, apply your learning in agricultural contexts to plan activities, make decisions and recommendations and evaluate their safety and effectiveness.

In Agricultural Practices, assessment instruments include:

- projects, e.g. revegetation of a natural area; show, sale and/or preparation of livestock
- collections of work, e.g. sustainable water use; farm machinery
- investigations, e.g. investigation of a pest; investigation of seasonality of a particular crop
- extended response to stimulus, e.g. responding to field data and surveys; case studies
- examinations, e.g. explaining, interpreting graphs, data or diagrams; making calculations.

In Year 12, you will be expected to complete four to six assessment instruments, with no more than two instruments from any one type of assessment.

How can parents/carers help?

Your parents/carers may help you by:

- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources
- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities
- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in the industry
- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour
- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

Where can Agricultural Practices take you?

This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) if you receive a Sound Achievement or higher. If you would like to learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QCAA website, www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html.

A course of study in Agricultural Practices can establish a basis for further education and employment in agriculture, aquaculture, food technology, environmental management and agribusiness. The subject also provides a basis for participating in and contributing to community associations, events and activities, such as agricultural shows.

More information

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the Agricultural Practices Subject Area Syllabus 2014. If you would like more information, please:

- visit the subject page on the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30494.html
- email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au.