

# APPRENTICE

## Information Guide

# FARM

# MANAGER

## Apprenticeship

*Bachelor of Science in Professional  
Sustainable Farm Management  
(NFQ Level 7)*



# **Earn while you learn working on a commercial farm**



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# Introduction

*The Farm Manager Apprenticeship is for anyone who wishes to pursue a managerial career in the agricultural sector or existing personnel employed on farms to progress with their existing educational qualifications. The programme will provide the person with the latest research and best practice management knowledge to successfully run a commercial farm business.*

This apprenticeship was developed by a consortium of industry representatives and Teagasc. Apprentices on the programme will engage in an integrated programme of work place training along-side traditional classroom and blended on-line delivery. The programme runs over a two year period.

The Farm Manager Apprenticeship will be the gold standard for farm management and farm ownership training in Ireland. The programme aims to equip trainee farmers with management skills to successfully run farm enterprises. Successful completion of this course will see individuals take responsibility for all areas of their respective farming enterprise.

The guide provides an overview of this apprenticeship for prospective apprentices, parents/guardians and guidance counsellors.



# Programme Aims

The Farm Manager Apprenticeship will provide individuals with in-depth knowledge and skill of sustainable farm enterprise management, health and safety management, sustainable economic business and labour management.

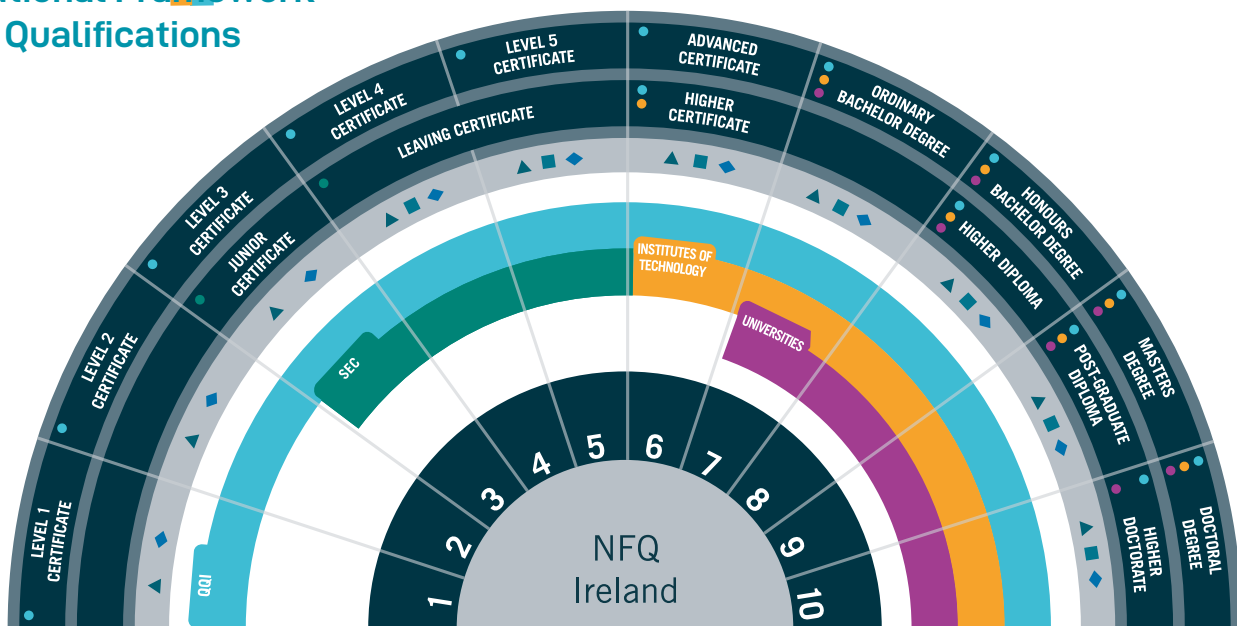
The Farm Manager Apprenticeship Programme aims are to:

- Offer apprentices a specified pathway to gain a qualification while in employment.
- Integrate in-depth knowledge acquired with a practical understanding of farm management principles to independently manage a farm enterprise according to best safe, compliant, sustainable and economic management practices.
- Execute and utilise a range of skills (technical, personal, inter-personal) to independently plan, organise, implement, delegate, monitor and manage farm enterprise operations and to contribute to a work environment.
- Execute the ability to work and manage work effectively safely in a leadership management capacity in areas of health and safety requirements, sustainable and economic farm practices, regulatory compliance, and biosecurity and work organisation mechanisms.
- Implement sustainable climate change initiatives in the farming enterprise combined with profitable targets for the farm business.
- Deliver highly skilled and competent people as trained farm managers to the agricultural sector in Ireland.
- Create a community of practice among apprentices, graduates, employers and workplace mentors to foster best practice and dynamisms in the industry.



# Programme Overview

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Programme Title</b> | Farm Manager Apprenticeship  |
| <b>Duration</b>        | Two years  |
| <b>NFQ Level</b>       | 7  |
| <b>Award Title</b>     | Bachelor of Science in Professional Sustainable Farm Management                    |
| <b>Certification</b>   | Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) issues certification as the awarding body |
| <b>Credits</b>         | 70 ECTS  |



## AWARDING BODIES

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- **Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- **Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- **Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- **Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

For further Information consult: [www.nfq.ie](http://www.nfq.ie) [www.QQI.ie](http://www.QQI.ie)

Source: <https://www.qqi.ie/>

# Apprentice Entry Requirements

## To be eligible for this apprenticeship, an applicant must:

Be directly employed by a SOLAS approved Employer

- Farm Technician Apprenticeship qualification (Higher Certificate in Technical Farm Operations – NFQ Level 6\*)

**Or**

- Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture (or equivalent) Award\*

**Or**

- Level 7 Specific Purpose Professional Dairy Diploma in Farm Management\*

**Or**

- Anyone working in the agricultural sector must be 18 year old or older working in the agricultural sector (2 years full-time) with the relevant experience and equivalent educational experience (NFQ Level 6 or higher\*) deemed acceptable by employer and consortium and subject to the validation of supporting evidence and/or assessment process.

\* A qualification deemed equivalent on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications to any of the qualifications listed above.

**Note** – Where there is a mathematics requirement at Leaving Certificate Established or Vocational Programme, obtaining a minimum grade O6/H7 in Maths or a F2 in Foundation Maths, mature and international applicants may be required to demonstrate that they possess the required competency through the completion of a maths assessment.

The programme is through the medium of English and it is highly desirable that the applicant will meet CEF Level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Language). Applicants whose first language is not English may be required to provide evidence of English language proficiency. The certificate of the English language standard must have been issued within 2 years of the expected start of your course.

# Programme Structure

Apprentices will be trained in a progressive manner and will get to put their skills into practice during both on and off the job training stages. On successful completion, the apprentice will be fully competent in the role of a Farm Manager.

Employers are asked to support employees throughout their learning journey by engaging and facilitating mentor one-to-ones on a regular basis. Employers will be issued with advice on this during induction training.

The block release programme has been designed to minimise the impact of the apprentice's absence for the work place. Block release allows for employers to plan for the apprentice's absence throughout off-seasons. Attendance is compulsory and apprentices will attend classes, practicals, labs and field trips while off-the-job. Assessments will take place also in this period. Off-the-job training will be a total of 10 weeks per year.

The following is an overview per stage of the off-the-training periods:

| Semester Label   | Off-the-job training                          |
|--|---|
| <b>Autumn / Winter Semester<br/>(Sept – Dec)</b>   | 16 days off-the-job.<br>8 online live classes |
| <b>Winter / Summer Semester<br/>(Jan – June)</b>   | 24 days off-the-job<br>12 online live classes |
| <b>Note:</b> <i>Off-the-job training (Classroom; Practical; etc.) supported with E-directed learning (Online Classes &amp; Online Tasks) in addition to formative feedback from on-the-job training.</i> |   |
| <b>Note: Repeat Days are extra days and will be scheduled in July</b>  |   |

# Programme Modules

## Year 1 / Stage 1

- Farm Finance & Strategic Management
- Health & Safety Management
- Sustainable & Environmental Farm Management
- Farm Product Quality & Operations Management

## Year 2 / Stage 2

- Manager Skills – Leadership; Delegation; Decision Making
- Economic Sustainability & Labour Management
- Farm Infrastructure & Regulations
- Climate Smart Farm Technologies
- Apprentice Project



# Is it for me?

## Do I -

- Meet the Minimum entry requirements.
- Want a Career in managing a farm.
- Have an interest in sustainable, financial and efficiency practices to plan, monitor and implement on a farm.
- Have an interest in developing communication, leadership, delegation and management skills.
- Want to learn and earn at the same time.
- Have a good level of physical fitness and enjoy physical activity and work.
- Want to start work early in the mornings.
- Love working outdoors and are safety focussed.
- Have an interest in agriculture and science.
- Have a solid literacy, verbal and numeracy skills.
- Have the ability to plan and prepare work.
- Have good analytical and problem solving skills.
- Have good computer skills.
- Have good hand/eye co-ordination, manual dexterity and spatial aptitude.
- Have good interpersonal skills.
- Have the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Want to take responsibility for my own learning with the continual support of Teagasc, appointed Workplace Mentor and your employer.

# How to become an Apprentice Farm Manager

**Step 1** - To be eligible for this apprenticeship, an applicant must:

- Be directly employed by a SOLAS approved Employer.
- Meet the entry requirements.

**Step 2** - The approved SOLAS Employer will start the registration process with SOLAS (The Further Education & Training Authority).

**Step 3** - Applicant's application will be assessed by Teagasc in consultation with SOLAS.

**Step 4** - If successful, applicant will be registered as an apprentice both with SOLAS and Teagasc.

**Step 5** - Apprentice will be called for induction training and off-the-job learning block release.

*Note – Applicants may be called for an interview to discuss entry qualifications and learner support requirements.*

# Programme Costs

Programme cost per annum are to be confirmed. Associated costs such as travel and accommodation for off-the-job block release are extra.

## Learning Environment

### Off-the-job

Direct contact via lectures and practical demonstrations at co-ordination locations:

- Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny E32 YW08

Extensive facilities and equipment for demonstrations and practice.

Field trips to industry / research / Teagasc facilities around Ireland highlighting excellence.

Guest Speakers from Industry and Research Facilities.

### Off-the-job

Apprentices while on-the-job will be mentored by a Workplace Mentor.

Apprentices will be trained in the skills associated with the daily and seasonal operations of the farm enterprise.

Blended e-learning – access to Teagasc's e-learning platform Moodle.

Connection to peers through weekly on-line sessions.



# Further Information

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