Module Specification

Part 1: Identification

Module Title	Farm Business Management and Agricultural Policy				
Module Code	HAGV78-30-5		Level	5	Version	1.2
Department	Agriculture	Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Contributes towards	BSc (Hons) Agriculture				
Pre-requisites	None		Module Type	Standard	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements	None	
Last Major Approval Date	V1.0 1st September 2017		Valid from	1st September 2018	
Amendment Approval Date	V1.1 31 August 2018 V1.2 3 July 2019		Revised with effect from	V1.1 01 September 2018 v1.2 01 September 2019	

Part 2: Learning and Teaching

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: 1. Review the business factors and analyse the decision making processes involved in farm business managment. (A, B) 2. Evaluate and implement farm record keeping systems, including the nature and role of financial and physical records. (A, B) 3. Critically analyse farm production and economic performance and determine management strategies which could promote improvement. (A, B) 4. Optimise farm resources and test farming objectives through the application of analysis, planning and control techniques. (A) 5. Analyse the impact of current environmental policy and legislation on agriculture, rural land and livestock management. (B) 6. Identify relevant grants and grant application opportunities available within agriculture. (B) 7. Integrate agricultural policy effectively to design farm business management plans. (B) 8. Evaluate likely future trends in environmental policy and farm business management techniques. (A, B)
Syllabus Outline	This module provides an introduction to the principles of business management and how they are applied to the modern agricultural business, including: Risk management and planning, sources/types of risk (e.g. climate risk, price risk, income risk), controlling risk, SWOT analysis. Marketing: Legal aspects of marketing, marketing strategies, price risk, marketing alternatives, futures and hedging. Human resources including: Job analysis and description, recruitment process, employment contracts and staff development. Financial management including: Budgetting, accounting, sensitivity analysis and performance measurement.

	Farm business management: Enterprise choice, resource assessment (land, labour, capital, finance, natural resources), business types, small businesses, setting objectives, internal and external influences on a business, record keeping.
	Decision making in the farm business and analysis of key decision areas: criteria for measuring business performance and identifying strengths and weaknesses, investigating and assessing ways for improvement of farm performance.
	Agricultural policy including: Pollution of resources, biodiversity changes in the UK, protection of landscape and cultural heritage, legislation of public access, grant availability and application, animal welfare legislation, health and safety policies, CAP operation and reform, Cross Compliance and sustainability of land management and resources.
Teaching and Learning Methods	In addition to the contact time for the module, students will be expected to carry out independent study to support their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Industry relevant visits and guest speakers will be used in the module to support students to further develop their skills in business planning (both tactical and strategic), benchmarking and accounting. For example, students may attend the Three Counties Farming Conference, where they will be given opportunities to engage in debate. **Scheduled learning may** include lectures, seminars, tutorials, demonstrations, practical classes and workshops, external visits, guest speakers. **Independent learning** includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make. **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** This specification is supported by Moodle where students will be able to find all necessary module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE.
Unistats Information	HEFCE require Unistats information to be produced at programme level for all undergraduate programmes of more than one year in length. These are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Expected learning hours for the module:					
Number of credits for this module				30	
Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	
300	72	228	0	300	✅

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -

Written Exam: Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test
Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project
Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

Total assessment of the module:			
Written exam assessment percentage			50%
Coursework assessment percentage			0%
Practical exam assessment percentage			50%
			100%

Reading Strategy	Core material will be indicated to the student via pre-course material, module guides and through their accessing a dedicated VLE programme presence. Students are expected to identify all other reading relevant to their chosen topic for themselves. They will be required to read widely using the library catalogue, a variety of bibliographic and full text databases, and Internet resources. Many resources can be accessed remotely. The purpose of this further reading is to ensure students are familiar with current research, classic works and material specific to their interests from the academic literature and wider professional sources. ***Access and skills*** Formal opportunities for students to develop their library and information skills are provided within the induction period and student skills sessions. Additional support is available through online resources. This includes interactive tutorials on finding books and journals, evaluation information and referencing. Sign up workshops are also offered.

Indicative Reading List	The following list is offered to provide the Curriculum Approval Committee/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.
	
	Books
	    Bell, S. and McGillivray, D. (Current Edition) *Environmental Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
	
	    Crouhy, M. Galai, D. Mark, R. (Current Edition) *The Essentials of Risk Management: The Definitive Guide for the Non-Risk Professional*: McGraw Hill
	
	    Chapman, R. J. (Current Edition) *Simple Tools and Techniques for Enterprise Risk Management*: Wiley
	
	    Hawke, N. and Kovaleva, N. (Current Edition) *Agri-environmental law and policy*. London: Cavendish Publishing.
	
	    Hopkin, P. (Current Edition*) Fundamentals of Risk Management: Understanding, Evaluating and Implementing Effective Risk Management*: Kogan Page
	
	    Jones, B., Palmer, J. and Sydenham, A. (Current Edition) *Countryside Law*. Crayford: Shaw & Sons.
	
	    Nix, J (Current Edition) *Farm Management Pocketbook*. Melton Mowbray: Agro Business Consultants
	
	    Olson, K. D. (Current Edition) Farm Management: Principles and Strategies: Iowa State Press
	
	    Tennent, J. (Current Edition) Guide to Financial Management: Chichester: Profile Books
	
	Websites and databases:
	
	    Cross Compliance http://www.crosscompliance.org.uk/
	
	    Environment Agency https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

	European Union http://europa.eu.
	Natural England http://www.naturalengland.org.uk
	Rural Payments Agency https://www.rpa.gov.uk.
	Journals:
	Farm Management
	Journal of Rural Enterprise & Management
	Agricultural Systems
	International Journal of Agricultural Policy and Research

Part 3: Assessment	
Assessment Strategy	The module is assessed through a written examination and oral presentation. The examination will test students' broader understanding of policy and management techniques. The presentation will allow the student to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter in order to meet the learning outcomes, as well as displaying wider communication and numeracy skills. Students will be supported to build business plans within seminar and tutorial sessions with verbal formative feedback given by tutors and peers which will also allow reflection on personal performance. The oral presentation panel is likely to include industry representatives therefore students are encouraged to discuss their plans with industry during industry engagement opportunities embedded in this module. Examination support will be provided via VLE and review of exemplar questions and answers during seminars. Students are expected to gather relevant resources to support the open book examination throughout the module with tutor guidance provided. In line with the Institution's commitment to facilitating equal opportunities, a student may apply for alternative means of assessment if appropriate. Each application will be considered on an individual basis taking into account learning and assessment needs. For further information regarding this please refer to the VLE.

Identify final assessment component and element	Written Examination	
	A:	**B:**
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**50%**	**50%**

First Sit	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Open Book Written Examination (3 hours)	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Oral Presentation (30 minutes)	100%

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Open Book Written Examination (3 hours)	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Oral Presentation (30 minutes)	100%
If a student is permitted a retake of the module, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Specification at the time that retake commences.	

Module Amendment Log

Module Title:	Farm Business Management and Agricultural Policy
Module Code:	HAGV78-30-5
Initial Approval Date:	01 September 2017

Changes: *Most recent at the top of the page*

Current version number: v.1.1	
Outline Change Details: 03/07/2019 – typographical correction to assessment element weightings	
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2019
Resulting new version number:	v.1.2

Current version number: v.1.0	
Outline Change Details: Adopting new naming system for programmes	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To reflect the Hartpury Academic Regulations	
Change requested by: Academic Registrar	
Signature: *Lucy Dowbell* **Date**: 01 August 2018	
Approval Committee and Date:	Curriculum Validation Committee 2018 08 31
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2018
Resulting new version number:	v.1.1