Module Specification

Part 1: Basic Data

Module Title	Farm Business Management and Agricultural Policy				
Module Code	UILV78-30-2		Level	2	Version	1
Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15	WBL module?	No
Owning Faculty	Hartpury		Field	Animal and Land	
Department	Agriculture		Module Type	Standard	
Contributes towards	BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (SW) BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (Livestock Production) BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (Livestock Production) (SW) BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (Crop Production) BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (Crop Production) (SW) BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (International) BSc (Hons) Applied Agriculture (International) (SW)				
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements	None	
Last Major Approval Date	19 January 2017		Valid from	1 September 2017	
Amendment Approval Date			Revised with effect from		
Review Due By	1 September 2023				

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 (and contact hours)	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.
Key Information Sets Information	HEFCE require Key Information Sets (KIS) to be produced at programme level for all undergraduate programmes of more than one year in length. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Key Information Set - Module data

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	Students are expected to read a range of text books, journal articles and industry relevant publications in support of the module. Any **core** essential reading will be indicated clearly in the first week of module teaching along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students may be expected to purchase a set text, be given a study pack, or be referred to texts that are available electronically, etc. This guidance will be available on the relevant VLE page. **Further** and wider reading is encouraged for this module with relevant material indicated in lectures, lecture notes, seminar preparation instructions and on the relevant VLE. ***Access and skills*** Formal opportunities for students to develop their library and information skills are provided within the induction period and study 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 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)	50%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Oral Presentation (30 minutes)	50%

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)	50%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Oral Presentation (30 minutes)	50%
If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the Academic Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Specification at the time that retake commences.	