



Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network

AGRICULTURE SKILLS NEEDS: CERTIFICATE III IN RURAL OPERATIONS

Background

In 2015/2016 the Queensland Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance (RJSA) sought data to determine the Queensland agriculture industry's skills demand. Colmar Brunton was commissioned to undertake market research and conducted 993 telephone surveys across a number of industry groups, including Production Horticulture; Beef industry, Cotton, Grain and Feed, Intensive Livestock (poultry, dairy, pigs), Nursery and Garden, and Sugar Cane. The responses below are based on the survey feedback. While not linked to any particular qualification or specific agriculture sector it does provide an insight into the skills desired by the agriculture sector in general.

1. Industry's top business needs

Industry was asked if there were any particular skills missing in their workforce. 22% of survey respondents reported some form of skills shortage. Machinery or mechanical skills (including maintenance, welding and fabrication), information technology, computer skills, truck/forklift/tractor driving skills and manager/supervisor skills were all on the top of the list.

The top skill needs Queensland wide, other than previous experience and a good work ethic were:

- Machinery skills including maintenance / welding / fabricator
- IT / computer literacy
- Driving skills including truck / forklift / tractors
- Managerial / supervisory skills
- Appropriate licences

2. Preferred units in Certificate 3 in Rural Operations [AHC32816](#)

Anecdotal evidence that has been gathered over a number of years indicates that the following units are preferable. Note that there are many units that are relevant but these are the most preferred units. While each region has common skill needs, the desired units will vary even within sectors.



CERTIFICATE III IN RURAL OPERATIONS

Core (compulsory units):

[AHCWHS301](#)

Contribute to work health and safety processes

[AHCWRK309](#)

Apply environmentally sustainable work practices

Must select 14 elective units. Any of the following would be desirable:

PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE

[AHCBAC305](#)

Undertake preparation of land for agricultural crop production

[AHCBAC307](#)

Maintain agricultural crops

[AHCBAC308](#)

Undertake agricultural crop harvesting activities

[AHC BIO305](#)

Apply biosecurity measures

[AHCBUS301](#)

Use hand held e-business tools

[AHCCHM303](#)

Prepare and apply chemicals

[AHCCHM304](#)

Transport and store chemicals

[AHCIRG333](#)

Maintain pressurised irrigation systems

[AHCIRG303A](#)

Measure irrigation delivery system performance

[AHCMOM202](#)

Operate tractors

[AHCMOM212](#)

Operate quad bikes

[AHCMOM213](#)

Operate and maintain chainsaws

[AHCMOM304](#)

Operate machinery and equipment

[AHCMOM301](#)

Coordinate machinery and equipment maintenance and repair

[AHCMOM302](#)

Perform machinery maintenance

[AHCMOM311](#)

Operate precision control technology

[AHC PHT306](#)

Establish horticultural crops

[AHC PMG301](#)

Control weeds

[AHC PMG302](#)

Control plant pests, diseases and disorders

[AHCWRK306](#)

Comply with industry quality assurance requirements

[AHCWRK303](#)

Respond to emergencies

[AHCWRK305](#)

Coordinate work site activities

[TLILIC2001](#)

Licence to operate a forklift truck

[AHCMOM305](#)

Operate specialised machinery and equipment

[BSBWOR204](#)

Use business technology



Welding is also a highly regarded skill as many farmers prefer to employ somebody who is multi-skilled and can do other tasks such as welding and machinery maintenance during the off peak season.

Units that may grow in demand is [AHCMOM311](#) Operate precision control technology and [AHCBUS301](#) hand held e-business tools.

LIVESTOCK (BEEF OR SHEEP) OR GRAIN



[AHCBC302](#)
[AHCBC303](#)
[AHCBC307](#)
[AHCINF301](#)
[AHCINF303](#)
[AHCIRG306](#)
[AHCLSK305](#)
[AHCLSK308](#)
[AHCLSK310](#)
[AHCLSK322](#)
[AHCLSK323](#)
[AHCLSK331](#)
[AHCMOM202](#)
[AHCMOM212](#)
[AHCMOM302](#)
[AHCMOM304](#)
[AHCWRK305](#)
[AHCWRK308](#)
[MEM05012C](#)

Establish pastures and crops for livestock production
 Prepare to receive grains and seeds
 Maintain agricultural crops
 Implement property improvement, construction and repair
 Plan and construct conventional fencing
 Troubleshoot irrigation systems
 Maintain livestock water supplies
 Identify and draft livestock
 Implement feeding plans for intensive production
 Transport farm produce or bulk materials
 Maintain and monitor feed stocks
 Comply with industry animal welfare requirements
 Operate tractors
 Operate quad bikes
 Perform machinery maintenance
 Operate machinery and equipment
 Coordinate work site activities
 Handle bulk materials in storage area
 Perform routine manual metal arc welding

COTTON



[RIIOHS202D](#)
[AHCWRK204](#)
[AHCWRK205](#)
[AHCWRK405](#)
[AHCCHM303](#)
[AHCCHM304](#)
[AHCMOM304](#)
[AHCMOM202](#)
[AHCMOM302](#)
[TLILIC2001](#)
[FPICOT3259](#)
[FPICOT3260](#)
[RIIVEH305D](#)
[AHCMOM212](#)
[HLTAID005](#)

Enter and work in confined spaces
 Work effectively in the industry
 Participate in workplace communications
 Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices
 Prepare and apply chemicals
 Transport and store chemicals
 Operate machinery and equipment
 Operate tractors
 Perform machinery maintenance
 Licence to operate a forklift truck
 Operate a four wheel drive on unsealed roads
 Recover four wheel drive vehicles
 Operate and maintain a four wheel drive vehicle.
 Operate ride-on vehicles
 Provide first aid in remote situations

[AHCBC306](#)
[AHCBC307](#)
[AHCBC308](#)
[AHCIRG334](#)

Establish agricultural crops
Maintain agricultural crops
Undertake agricultural crop harvesting activities
Operate and maintain gravity fed irrigation systems

SUGARCANE



[AHCMOM302](#)
[AHCWRK302](#)
[AHCAGB301](#)
[AHCBC302](#)
[AHCBC306](#)
[AHCBC307](#)
[AHCBC305](#)
[AHCBC308](#)
[AHCBUS503](#)
[AHCMOM212](#)
[AHCMOM202](#)
[AHCCHM303](#)
[AHCMOM311](#)
[AHCMPG301](#)
[AHCMPG302](#)
[AHCMOM302](#)
[TLILIC2001](#)
[BSBWOR204](#)
[AHCBC305](#)
[AHCBC305](#)
[AHCCHM304](#)
[AHCIRG303A](#)
[AHCMOM304](#)
[AHCIRG325](#)
[AHCIRG327](#)
[BSBR501](#)

Perform machinery maintenance
Monitor weather conditions
Keep records for a primary production business
Identify and report unusual disease or plant pest signs
Establish agricultural crops
Maintain agricultural crops
Undertake preparation of land for agricultural crop production
Undertake agricultural crop harvesting activities
Negotiate and monitor contracts
Operate quad bikes
Operate tractors
Prepare and apply chemicals
Operate precision control technology
Control weeds
Control plant pests, diseases and disorders
Perform machinery maintenance
Licence to operate a forklift truck
Use business technology
Undertake preparation of land for agricultural crop production
Apply biosecurity measures
Transport and store chemicals
Measure irrigation delivery system performance
Operate machinery and equipment
Operate irrigation technology
Implement an irrigation schedule
Manage Risk

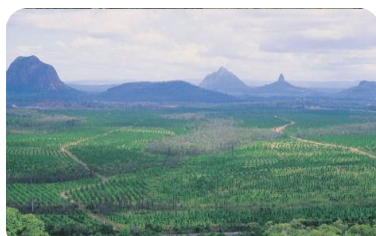
DAIRY



[AHCCHM304](#)
[AHCINF302](#)
[AHCWRK303](#)
[AHCDRY201](#)
[AHCAIS303](#)
[AHCWRK302](#)
[AHCLSK327A](#)
[AHCLSK315](#)
[AHCLSK305](#)
[AHCPCM301](#)
[AHCLSK312](#)
[AHCMOM202](#)
[AHCMOM212](#)
[AHCLSK301A](#)
[AHCLSK331](#)
[AHCDRY302](#)
[AHCLSK329](#)
[AHCWRK306](#)
[AHCDRY301](#)
[AHCINF301](#)
[AHCBAC301](#)

Transport and store chemicals
Plan and construct an electric fence
Respond to emergencies
Milk livestock
Artificially inseminate livestock
Monitor weather conditions
Collect, store and administer colostrum
Prepare for and implement natural mating of livestock
Maintain livestock water supplies
Implement a plant nutrition program
Coordinate artificial insemination and fertility management of livestock
Operate tractors
Operate quad bikes
Administer medication to livestock
Comply with industry animal welfare requirements
Operate a dairy recycling system
Implement procedures for calving
Comply with industry quality assurance requirements
Coordinate milking operations
Implement property improvement, construction and repair
Conserve forage

TIMBER



[AHCCHM303](#)
[AHCCHM304](#)
[AHCPMG301](#)
[AHCPMG302](#)
[AHCMOM304](#)
[AHCWRK305](#)
[AHCPTH201](#)
[AHCMOM212](#)
[AHCMOM213](#)
[AHCPIO305](#)

Prepare and apply chemicals
Transport and store chemicals
Control weeds
Control plant pests, diseases and disorders
Operate machinery and equipment
Coordinate work site activities
Plant horticultural crops
Operate quad bikes
Operate and maintain chainsaws
Apply biosecurity measures

Other units would be included based on specific business needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



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