

C-POU.1 Hatchery Practices and Breeder/Layer Poultry Health, Welfare and Production

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The aims of this module are to:

1. develop the depth and breadth of the student's knowledge and understanding of the health, welfare and production of poultry breeders and layers, and hatchery operations;
2. Develop the student's knowledge, understanding and skills to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, successful candidates should be able to:

1. critically appraise hatchery operations and breeder layer production systems for poultry in the UK;
2. critically appraise the complex interactions between management, breeding, genetics, nutrition, environment, behaviour, health, welfare, productivity, food quality and food safety of breeder/layer poultry;
3. critically appraise current approaches to diagnosing diseases affecting the breeder/layer, incorporating in-depth knowledge of infectious (including notifiable) and non-infectious poultry disease and the effect of these on poultry health, welfare and production;
4. design, execute and monitor biosecurity and flock health programmes for breeder/layer flocks;
5. effectively evaluate, choose and implement appropriate preventive and therapeutic strategies for the management of poultry disease in breeder/layer flocks, including non-pharmaceutical/pharmaceutical or biological products in UK, and their usage and limitations;
6. critically appraise the legislation, assurance schemes, practice codes/guidance relating to breeder/layer poultry health, management, welfare, food safety and zoonoses;
7. critically evaluate the literature in order that evidence-based medicine underpins decision-making processes.

Module Structure

This module covers husbandry, welfare, management and diseases of breeders, layers and hatchery procedures relating to chickens, turkeys, ducks and/or geese.

This module covers all aspects of management and welfare during rear, during lay and at hatcheries, including:

- Ventilation
- Feeding
- Water
- Rearing, egg layers and breeders
- Breeder performance
- Hatchery and incubation practices
- Egg handling and quality
- Egg production issues
- Disease diagnosis and control
- Therapeutics and vaccine programmes
- Welfare outcome assessments
- Biosecurity and traceability
- Nutrition and poultry feed production
- Lighting and lighting programs
- Assurance schemes and codes of practice for standard, free range and organic production schemes
- Food safety and zoonotic agent monitoring

Assessment Strategy

- **2 x 1500-word reflective case reports (60%)**
On a topic related to the relevant study units, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory with other assessments, however there is compensation between case reports. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x 1-hour open book examination (30%)**
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and group discussion (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. 2-4 students critique the same paper, and then discuss their critiques and any variations with the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the discussion.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.