

Agricultural and Horticultural Science NCEA NZC Level 1 Subject Learning Outcomes for Assessment

Companion to the Agricultural and Horticultural Science Learning Matrix

What are the Subject Learning Outcomes and how can I use them?

Subject Learning Outcomes identify the knowledge and skills that students need to be ready for assessment. Subject Learning Outcomes are informed by the Achievement Standards. They should be used in conjunction with the full suite of NCEA materials. For guidance on assessment criteria, please also refer to the Achievement Standards, Unpacking, and External Assessment Specifications or Conditions of Assessment as appropriate.

Subject Learning Outcomes do not replace any documents. This includes the External Assessment Specifications and Conditions of Assessment. All NCEA materials need to be used to fully understand the requirements of each Achievement Standard and to plan a robust teaching, learning, and assessment programme. Subject Learning Outcomes should not be used to make assessor judgments. The Achievement Standard and the Assessment Schedule for Internal Assessment Activities are used to make such judgments.

Subject Learning Outcomes, alongside other key documents, make clear to teachers what to include in their teaching and learning programmes and what student capabilities to check for, in the lead up to assessment. Each Subject Learning Outcome does not need the same amount of teaching time.

All learning should connect with students' lives in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. Teachers or students usually select the contexts. As such, contexts are not always specified in the Subject Learning Outcomes. Examples may be provided to illustrate topics and contexts, but they are not prescriptive.

Students are entitled to teaching that supports them to achieve higher levels of achievement. Subject Learning Outcomes mainly align with outcomes for the Achieved level. However, outcomes for higher levels of achievement are also included.

The knowledge and skills in the Subject Learning Outcomes are the expected learning that underpins each Achievement Standard. Students will draw on this learning during assessment. It is important to note that assessment is a sampling process so not everything that is taught will be assessed.



Achievement Standard 91928 (1.1)	Demonstrate understanding of how a life process is managed in a primary production system Credit		
What is being assessed:	Specific Learning Outcome (Students are able to)		
A life process is any of the basic physiological functions of the plant or animal.	 Understand that a life process is any of the basic physiological functions of the plant or anin Examples of a life process include photosynthesis, nutrition, response to disease. 	nal.	
Primary production system.	 Describe a primary production system. Explore the interrelationship between primary production and life processes. 		
Māori concept	 Demonstrate understanding of a Māori concept in the context of life processes that are managed in a primary production system. Examples of a Māori concept include: tūhononga, manaakitanga, tiakitanga. Other concepts may be explored. 	,	
A management practice is a grower preformed action that is part of production.	 Understand that a management practice is an action that is part of production. Examples of management practice include fertiliser application, irrigation, drenching, pruning. 	а	
	Agricultural Contexts		
 Livestock - Digestion and Nutrition. Livestock nutrition requirements from food. Digestive systems (ruminant and non-ruminant) The nutritional value of feeds. Digestibility of feeds. Feed requirements of maintenance, growth, pregnancy, and lactation. Examples of livestock management practices for digestion and nutrition. Pasture production Topping Oversowing new pasture species Grazing management e.g., rotational, set stocking, strip, 	 Understand digestion and nutrition as a life process. Explore why New Zealand livestock production is pasture based and the national economic significance of this. Describe the influence of the New Zealand climate on pasture or crop production. Discuss pasture as a source of feed for livestock. Describe animal requirements from feed. Name the parts of the ruminant and non-ruminant digestive systems and explain their funct Describe the factors affecting the nutritional value of feeds. Determine why animal feed requirements vary throughout the year. Match feed type to animal requirements, different types of animals, and animals at different stages of physiological growth or production stages. Understand that digestibility of feed affects the uptake of nutrients. Compare or justify feed, or pasture / crop management practices for a given situation. Realise that the choice of feed type influences by digestion and nutrition. Identify the attributes of the main pasture plants of perennial ryegrass and white clover. Explain the complementary growth patterns between white clovers and grasses. Use pasture growth rate and growth curves. 	tion.	



- cells, break feeding, feeding out, zero.
- Pasture conservation e.g., hay, silage, balage, autumn saved pasture.
- Crop production
 - Soil conditions e.g., fertilisers, liming, cultivation
 - Pest and diseases e.g. spraying.
 - Weeds e.g., spraying.
 - Irrigation e.g. centre pivot.
 - Cultivar selection
 - Seed quality (purity % and germination %).
 - Crop rotation.
- Livestock Reproduction.
- Reproductive systems
 Examples of livestock reproduction management practices
 - o Animal Identification.
 - Oestrus detection methods e.g., tail paint, Kamar, observation.
 - o Selective breeding.
 - Artificial breeding.

- Justify the use of crops rather than pasture to feed a particular livestock.
- Outline the factors affecting pasture and / or crop production and their management practices.
- Highlight the plant growth stages throughout the year and link this to changes in nutritional value.
- Research management practices used to optimise pasture and / or crop growth from establishment to harvest and explain how they influence pasture or crop growth and utilisation.
- Understand the different situations where rotational grazing or set stocking might be chosen.
- Recognize how weed control improves production.
- Evaluate the need for pasture and crop conservation.
- Understand the benefits of crop rotation within a cropping system.
- Evaluate how digestion and nutrition is influenced by pasture and crop attributes.
- Compare and contrast pasture conservation management practices on digestion and nutrition and the impacts on production.
- Rank the importance of the pasture and / or crop production management practices on production.
- Understand reproduction as a life process.
- Explain why animal reproduction is important.
- Name the organs involved in reproduction and explain their function for both male and female.
- Outline the factors influencing reproductive performance e.g., nutrition, mating management, age, health, and genetic ability.
- Understand simple Mendelian genetics in terms of being able to discuss hereditary in physical properties and productive traits of animals (chromosomes, genes, alleles, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, dominant, punnet squares, ratios).
- Discuss variation as the basis of selection and explain how it is used in animal breeding programmes to increase farm production.
- Explore the role of sex hormones (testosterone, oestrogen) in livestock.
- Examine artificial breeding.
- Outline the reasons for using identification and the recording of production data.
- Compare or justify reproductive management practices for a given situation.
- Identify oestrus detention methods.
- Evaluate how reproduction is influenced by artificial breeding to improve production.
- Compare selective and artificial breeding management practices with their impacts on production.



Livestock – Response to disease. • What is health? • The direct and indirect causes of ill health. • Direct causes • Micro-organisms • Parasites • Metabolic • Nutrient deficiencies • Hereditary • Indirect (predisposing causes) e.g., injury, age, hereditary stress, reproduction, nutrition, pregnancy, bad weather, sex. • Identify signs and symptoms of good and poor health - posture, not eating, coat condition, production	 Research management practices used to optimise reproduction and explain how they impact on livestock production. Rank the importance of the reproduction management practices on production. Understand response to disease as a life process. Discuss the importance of animal health in terms of production, product quality, farmer health, cost, and efficiency of production. Describe the causes of ill health through direct and indirect causes. Identify signs and symptoms of good and poor health. Explain methods used to prevent ill health (level of nutrition, drenching, hygiene, minimise the effects of predisposing causes, vaccinations, breeding, and selection). Outline the reasons for using vaccinations. Explain the role of drenching as a response to disease. Explain breeding and selection as a response to disease. Evaluate how response to disease is influenced to improve production. Research management practices used to optimise health and explain how they impact on livestock production. Compare and contrast management practices used to control parasites with their impacts on production. Rank the importance of health management practices utilised in a specified production. Discuss whether controlling direct or indirect causes of ill health is better for overall production 	
 Hereditary Indirect (predisposing causes) e.g., injury, age, hereditary stress, reproduction, nutrition, pregnancy, bad weather, sex. Identify signs and symptoms of good and poor health - posture, not eating, coat condition, production level, breathing. Types of ill health. 	 Explain breeding and selection as a response to disease. Evaluate how response to disease is influenced to improve production. Research management practices used to optimise health and explain how they impact on livestock production. Compare and contrast management practices used to control parasites with their impacts on production. Rank the importance of health management practices utilised in a specified production. 	
 Examples of response to disease management practices level of nutrition, drenching, hygiene, minimise the effects of predisposing causes, vaccinations, breeding, and selection. 		
Horticultural Contexts		
Plants – Reproduction.	 Understand reproduction as a life process. Explain why plant reproduction is important for increasing grower returns. 	



- Reproductive systems Sexual and asexual.
- Pollination.
- Fertilisation.
- Germination.
- Seed dormancy.
- Examples of management practices for sexual reproduction.
 - Breaking dormancy
 - Seed sowing techniques.
 - In pots / seed trays
 - In plots open ground
 - Pricking and thinning out.
 - Transplanting
 - Hardening off.
- Examples of management practices for asexual reproduction.
 - Cuttings.
 - Layering.
 - Grafting and budding.
 - Tissue Culture.
 - Natural forms of asexual reproduction e.g., bulbs, runners, division, etc.

- Name the organs involved in plant reproduction and explain their function.
- Understand what is meant by plant propagation.
- Identify the differences between sexual and asexual propagation.
- Outline the flowering plant lifecycle.
- Identify flower structures.
- Explain the functions of the main parts of the flower.
- Examine the principles of pollination, fertilisation, and embryo formation.
- Compare wind versus insect pollinated flowers, and cross and self-pollination.
- Recognise that seed formation results in genetic variability.
- Define the terms hybrid F1 plants, monohybrid cross, genes, chromosomes, dominant, recessive, phenotype, and genotype.
- Identify seed structure and function of the different parts.
- Distinguish between the different types of seed dispersal.
- Explain the principles of germination.
- Outline the factors and conditions necessary or affecting the rate of germination.
- Understand simple Mendelian genetics in terms of being able to discuss hereditary in physical properties and productive traits of plants (chromosomes, genes, alleles, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, dominant, punnet squares, ratios).
- Clarify the importance of seed viability.
- Investigate what conditions are needed for germination.
- Understand plant management practices are influenced by dormancy, germination, pollination, and fertilisation, and seedling emergence.
- Explain different ways to break seed dormancy.
- Carry out plant management practices for sexual propagation from seed in containers to the open ground, and in sheltered environments.
- Recognise that plants can be propagated using asexual means.
- Identify the different types of cuttings and their relative position on the plant.
- Apply cutting techniques to specific plants.
- State the specific plants that can be grown using layering.
- Understand the use of grafting and budding principles and practices.
- Research management practices used to optimise propagation and explain how they improve plant production.
- Compare and contrast sexual and asexual propagation management practices.



Plants – Growth, Respiration, Photosynthesis, Nutrient Uptake, or Transpiration.

- Plant parts and their functions.
- Plant processes growth, respiration, photosynthesis, nutrient uptake, transpiration.
- Examples of plant management practices for growth, transpiration, nutrient uptake, photosynthesis, and respiration.
 - Irrigation
 - Providing shelter
 - Cultivation
 - Training
 - Nutrient application
 - Pest, disease and weed control.

- Justify reproductive management practices for a given situation.
- Understand growth, respiration, photosynthesis, nutrient uptake, and transpiration as life processes.
- Explain why these plant processes are important.
- Identify and label the external and internal parts of a plant.
- Research the function of plant parts.
- View plant cells under a microscope.
- Compare the volume of roots and shoots for a range of weeds using water displacement.
- Describe the environmental factors that influence plant growth.
- Name the raw materials of photosynthesis and identify where they are from.
- State the chemical equations for photosynthesis and respiration in words and symbols.
- Relate the photosynthesis equation to the production of seeds and fruit.
- Investigate the impact light has on photosynthesis.
- Research management practices used to optimise photosynthesis.
- Explain the role of pest and disease control.
- Draw up a plan for crop rotations on an area of land.
- Recognise the benefits to plants of applying lime to soil.
- Compare natural and artificial shelter.
- Recognise the need for protective structures and the impact these have on plant processes.
- Classify fertiliser by it type.
- Explain how training plants impact plant processes.
- Use a key to identify mineral deficiencies in plants.
- Carry out training techniques such as pruning, staking, and tying.
- Describe the detrimental effects of weeds on plant growth.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of different pest and disease controls.
- Draw a chart showing which plant management practices effect which life processes and how plant growth is impacted.
- Compare and contrast management practices that effect the life process to improve production.
- Compare or justify management practices for a particular life process to improve production.



Achievement Standard 91929 (1.2)	Demonstrate understanding of factors that influence the purpose and	Credits: 5
	location of primary production	
What is being assessed	Specific Learning Outcome (Students are able to)	
Purpose of primary production is a	 Explain why the purpose and location of production is important to New Zealand 	l .
social, cultural, environmental,	 Understand that the purpose is influenced by interrelated economic, social, cult 	ıral, sustainable,
historical, or economic goal or reason	historical, and environmental reasons.	
for the establishment of a production	 Investigate the contribution agricultural and horticultural production makes to Ac 	tearoa New
system.	Zealand export earnings.	
Location is the geographical area or	 Identify the physical factors of the environment that must be considered to produ 	uce a product.
region where the primary product is	 Discuss why most of New Zealand's towns and cities are located near waterway 	/S.
produced.	• Examine Māori and European settlement patterns and their relationship to food	production and /
	or harvest.	
	Determine the distribution of products produced in a region or area.	
Factors are the conditions that can	Examine the physical factors that impact on primary production.	
influence the purpose and location of	• Explore soil types across New Zealand and their impact on primary production.	
primary production. These could be:	Determine the range of climatic factors that impact on primary production.	
Physical (soil, topography)	 Understand why climatic factors determine location of products grown. 	
2. Climatic (temperature, precipitation,	• Compare climatic information of the regions – sunshine, precipitation, temperature	ıre, wind.
wind)	 Carry out field measurements from a range of environments around the school 	open ground,
3. Market (availability of labour, access	tunnel house, shelter belt, etc) or collect this from the newspaper, and collate th	e data in a table.
to processing plants)	Measure air temperature, soil temperature, light intensity, wind speed, rainfall, a	nd humidity.
	Examine the distance to market (endpoint) for a locally produced product.	
	 Explore how many people are required in different primary industries such as be 	ef, avocados,
	and dairy.	
	• Inquire how many processing plants there are for a product, such as dairy, apple	es, poultry, or
	sheep.	
	 Research career pathways opportunities directly related to the primary industrie 	s in New
	Zealand.	
	 Investigate some production systems that could be started or developed in your 	local area
	taking into consideration climatic and physical factors that enable or limit produc	
	List the factors which have led to the growing of a product in the local area and	evaluate their
	relative importance.	
	 Using the contributing factors, evaluate the purpose and location of a primary pr 	oduction.



Achievement Standard 91930 (1.3)	Demonstrate understanding of how soil properties are managed in a primary Credits: 5 production system
What is being assessed:	Specific Learning Outcome (Students are able to)
Primary production system.	Describe a primary production system.
	Explore the interrelationship between primary production and soil properties.
Māori concept	Demonstrate understanding of a Māori concept in the context of soil properties that are managed in a primary production system. Examples of a Māori concept include: tūhononga, manaakitanga, tiakitanga. Other appropriate ones can be used.
Importance of soils as a growing	Understand why plants need a growing medium.
medium	Explain why soil is important to the primary industry.
 Describe why plants need a growing medium. 	 Understand the nature of soil as a variable mixture, subject to change, and provides nutrients, minerals, air, and water to plants and soil organisms. Make links between plant growth and soils.
Soil Composition.	Describe soil composition and components.
 Mineral matter (sand, silt, and clay) Organic matter Soil organisms (earthworms and micro-organisms) Air Water 	 Understand what makes up soil, that it is a mixture containing nutrients, minerals, organic matter, air, water, and living organisms.
Soil Texture	Determine texture of a soil.
 Simple knowledge of texture - 	Compare different soils and their textures.
proportions of sand, silt, and clay	Understand soil structure in terms of particle size and pore structure.
	Determine the proportions of sand, silt, and clay in a soil.
How soil is made?	Understand the formation of soil.
Soil Profile	Explain how soil variations affect plant growth.
Soil Horizons	Distinguish soil profiles and horizons.
Physical Properties of Soil	Distinguish between physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil.
Soil Structure - refers to the way soil	Use a soil texture triangle to determine textural names / soil types.
particles are grouped together.	Explain the physical properties of soil.
Soil texture – refers to the	Understand the properties of different soil types.
proportions of sand, silt, and clay.	Apply knowledge of soil structure.
 Drainage and aeration 	Understand the movement of air through soil.



 Aeration 	Recognise movement of water through soil and its permeability.
 Water holding capacity. 	Use the terms field capacity, saturation, permanent wilting point.
 Temperature 	Consider soil temperature and its effects.
	Compare the amount of air found in different soil structures / types.
Chemical Properties of Soil	Describe the chemical properties of soil.
Soil pH	Understand soil pH and its impact on soil structure, nutrient availability and biological activity.
 Soil as a Reservoir and a Source of 	Compare macro and micronutrients.
Nutrients	Understand what affects nutrient status of soil.
 Macro and Micronutrients. 	
Biological Properties of Soil	Describe the biological properties of soil.
1) Organic Matter	Link the value of organic matter and its decomposition into humus, to physical and chemical
 Organic matter and its 	benefits to the soil.
decomposition to humus	Explain the role of soil organisms.
2) Soil Organisms	Recognize the difference between beneficial and pathogenic organisms.
 Macro-organisms – earthworms. 	 Understand the role of symbiotic associations, soil pathogens, and soil pests.
 Micro-organisms – fungi and 	Explain the difference between macro-organisms and microorganisms.
bacteria.	Outline why nitrogen fixing bacteria are important.
 Symbiotic associations, soil 	Explain how crop rotation helps with the control of soil pests.
pathogens, and soil pests.	
Examples of modification of soils using	Describe the methods used to modify soil properties so that it becomes a medium suitable for
management practices.	growing plants.
Modification by physical magne	Explore how and why primary production management practices are carried out as they are.
Modification by physical means	Recognise the need for cultivation.
Cultivation - mechanical breaking up and turning of the soil	
and turning of the soil.	Apply different cultivation methods - digging (single and double), raking, hoeing, rotary hoeing,
Drainage. Irrigation	minimum tillage, and no-dig.
Irrigation.	Use basic garden tools commonly used in modern gardens.
	Discuss garden tools of the pre-European Māori.
	Communicate the different types of drains – surface, and subsurface.
	Use the terms water availability, evapotranspiration.
	Estimate crop water requirements.
	Understand the types of irrigation and drainage systems.
NA DE CONTRACTOR	Choose an appropriate irrigation or drainage system.
Modification by adding organic material.	Understand the organic matter addition methods used to modify or improve soil.



Mulches	Carry out mulching.
Composting.	Determine the differences between the different types of mulch – green, organic, and inorganic.
Green Manure Crops.	Outline the effects of mulching.
Effluent.	Understand what composting is.
	Explain the principles of composting and its value in improving soil conditions.
	Identify what green manure crops are.
	Explain the principles of green manure crops and their value in improving soil conditions.
Modification by adding lime.	Understand what happens to the soil when lime is added.
Modification by adding nutrients.	Recognise the nutrient requirements of plants.
Essential Nutrients	• Distinguish between the major nutrients N, P, K, S, Mg, Ca and trace elements Mo, Cu, Fe, Zn,
NPK ratios.	B and understand plant requirements of these.
 Nutrient Deficiencies. 	Understand the significance of the NPKS ratio of fertilisers.
 Loss of nutrients 	Explain how plants take up essential elements / nutrients.
 Providing Plant Nutrients. 	State the importance of nutrients in plant health.
 Crop Rotations (Pest Control, 	Describe common nutrient deficiencies and their symptoms.
Nitrogen cycle and Interplanting)	Describe how nutrients are lost by leaching, plant growth and harvesting.
 Fertiliser Application. 	Explore a range of methods to provide plant nutrients.
Effluent Application	Apply fertilisers in a range of methods.
	Describe how to apply fertilisers and understand the best practices for fertiliser use.
	Explore out crop rotations.
	Explain the role of the nitrogen cycle in primary production.
	Explain the different methods of effluent applications.
Bringing it all together.	Compare and contrast management practices used to manage soil properties to optimise
	production.
	Rank the importance of soil management practices utilised in a specified production.
	Compare or justify soil management practices for a given situation.
	Evaluate which soil management practices are most effective at optimising production.



Achievement Standard 91931 (1.4)	Demonstrate understanding of environmental sustainability in primary	Credits: 4
	production management practices	
What is being assessed:	Specific Learning Outcome (Students are able to)	
Importance of Primary Production in New Zealand.	 Understand why the environmental impact of primary production is important for Zealanders. 	r all New
 Environmental Sustainability. The implications of primary production management practices on environmental sustainability are positive and / or negative impacts. What is an environmental impact? 	 Understand that environmental sustainability is the ability to maintain an ecolog the environment and conserve natural resources to support the wellbeing of cur generations. State what the environment is. Appreciate that management practices can have impacts on the environment at community. Explore how management practices used in the production of crops and livestor the wider community. Identify primary production management practices that impact on the environment of the en	rent and future nd the wider ck can impact
Positive implications of environmental sustainability.	 Identify primary production management practices that have a positive impact of environment. Explain the positive impacts of management practices on the environment. Explore the specific positive impacts of management practices from the product livestock on the environment (air, water, soil/land, living organisms) and link the practice to the positive environmental impact. List words or phrases that distinguish sustainable management practices. Visit an orchard or farm to look at sustainable practices. 	on the tion of a crop or
Negative implications of environmental sustainability.	 Identify primary production management practices that have a negative impact environment. Explain negative impacts of management practices on the environment. Explore the specific negative impacts of management practices from the productive livestock on the environment (air, water, soil/land, living organisms) and pose so problems. Differentiate between positive and negative impacts on the environment. 	ction of a crop or
Impacts on soil, water, atmosphere, and living things.	 Communicate how environmental impacts may affect living things, and the qual atmosphere, water, or soil. Critically analyse the consequences of a selected primary production such as for horticulture on fresh water. Investigate indigenous indicators of health of the waterway. 	•



	•	Consider a local (New Zealand or Pacific) / relevant primary production and organise the class into groups to construct arguments around different viewpoints/perspectives of its environmental impact.
	•	Critically analyse the consequences of the impacts of producing crops, or livestock on people, other living things, and the physical environment.
Examples of management practices.	•	Identify management practices that can be used to manage growing environments.
 Riparian planting 	•	Communicate how nutrients are lost by leaching, plant growth and harvesting.
Erosion control	•	Differentiate the methods of effluent applications.
 Cultivation and minimum tillage 	•	Explain the principles of green manure crops and their value in improving soil conditions.
 Use of agrichemicals 	•	Choose an appropriate irrigation or drainage system for a particular land type and use.
 Fencing waterways 	•	Link the value of organic matter and its decomposition into humus, to physical and chemical
Irrigation		benefits to the soil.
Nutrient application and	•	Understand the purpose of cultivation and the effects of overcultivation.
management	•	Recognise movement of water through soil and its permeability and the management practices
Effluent application and		that can use used to increase or decrease this movement.
management.	•	Investigate different techniques of management practices to reduce environmental impacts and
Pest control. Crazing management		to increase environmental sustainability.
Grazing management. Principle in a life and hard	•	Understand how producers use management practices to reduce impacts on the environment.
Bringing it all together.	•	Compare or justify management practices for a given situation.
	•	Evaluate which management practices are optimal for use when producing a primary product.
	•	Explain how positive implications of environmental sustainability lead to the use of a particular management practice.
	•	Compare and contrast implications of the use of some management practices on environmental sustainability.
	•	Rank the possible management practices utilised in a specified production by their environmental implications.
	•	Evaluate the choice of management practices for a product on their environmental implications.