

Overview

This standard deals with the competence required by individuals who are involved in production of game eggs. It can be applied to any game bird which is produced under controlled conditions. This standard is aimed at those who work in game production on either a full- or part-time basis.

To meet this standard you will be able to:

1. obtain suitable birds for breeding
2. establish a breeding flock of gamebirds
3. manage a flock of gamebirds to facilitate egg production
4. maintain the production of game eggs
5. manage the handling and storage of game eggs

This standard relates to the following applications or context:

Developing and implementing a breeding programme to cover the following process:

catching breeding stocks
transport of laying birds
preparation of laying birds
monitoring fertility
egg collection and storage
disposal of breeding flock

Establishing procedures to deal with the following factors:

variations in environmental conditions
resource shortfalls
pest and predator actions
disease
equipment failure
broodiness
variations in expected egg production

Maintaining production according to the availability of the following resources:

people
materials
feed and water
equipment
power
time

Recognising and effectively dealing with difficulties that may arise:

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Manage the production of fertile gamebird eggs

egg eating
soft shells
vent pecking
over mating
low fertility
egg binding
disease
stress in birds
egg peritonitis

Maintaining the following operations:

egg collection
egg cleaning and storage
caring for breeding stock
disposal of breeding flocks

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Plan and organise production of fertile game eggs

- P1 plan gamebird egg production such that targets can be achieved in accordance with legal requirements
- P2 organise the establishment of laying pens to support planned production
- P3 select breeding stock to optimise the potential return from breeding activities
- P4 develop a breeding programme to achieve required production in compliance with organisational and legal requirements
- P5 develop feeding and care regimes for breeding stock to maintain nutritional and welfare requirements of game chicks
- P6 make arrangements to support the effective implementation of the breeding programme
- P7 establish procedures to be followed to minimise the effect of factors which can disrupt production
- P8 establish a recording system to support the planned breeding programme

You must be able to:

Manage egg production to maintain fertility and quality

- P9 organise the establishment of breeding areas to support egg production
- P10 organise the preparation and care of breeding stock to maintain welfare, facilitate egg production and comply with legislation
- P11 maintain production operations within known resource availability and according to welfare requirements
- P12 administer prophylactic and disease treatments according to legal requirements
- P13 recognise and effectively deal with difficulties which impact on the breeding programme
- P14 maintain accurate records

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Manage the production of fertile gamebird eggs

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Plan and organise production of fertile game eggs

- K1 the legal requirements and relevant codes of practice pertaining to the production, transport and welfare of reared game chicks
- K2 the reproductive requirements of the gamebird being produced
- K3 how to select and age breeding birds
- K4 how the age of individual birds can effect egg production
- K5 how to organise laying pens to achieve required egg production
- K6 legal constraints controlling game rearing
- K7 the nutritional requirements of breeding stock
- K8 common stock diseases and possible causes of infection and treatment
- K9 specialist handling requirements of breeding stock
- K10 care and welfare requirements of breeding stock
- K11 how to establish a breeding programme to achieve planned targets
- K12 how to effectively establish and locate catchers to obtain target breeding stock
- K13 the record keeping requirements associated with the production of gamebird chicks
- K14 how to minimise the potential impact of factors which disrupt production
- K15 appropriate male/female ratios for breeding flocks
- K16 the precautions that can be implemented to minimise feather picking and damage caused during fighting
- K17 the methods used to monitor the fertility of individual birds
- K18 expected levels egg production

You need to know and understand:

Manage egg production to maintain fertility and quality

- K19 the legal requirements and relevant codes of practice pertaining to production, transport and welfare of reared gamebirds
- K20 the legal requirements associated with veterinary medicine and notifiable diseases
- K21 how gamebirds are prepared to maximise egg production
- K22 the advantages and disadvantages of closed and caught-up flock systems
- K23 the welfare and nutritional requirements of breeding stock including the pre-breeding nutritional requirements
- K24 common gamebird diseases and their associated symptoms and treatments
- K25 expectable levels and common causes of mortality
- K26 how to administer treatments to gamebirds
- K27 specialist handling requirements of brood stock and gamebird chicks
- K28 how to collect, clean and store eggs to maximise hatchability
- K29 expected periods and levels of production linked to calendar months

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Manage the production of fertile gamebird eggs

- K30 the voluntary codes of practice which support the production of game eggs
- K31 the causes of common difficulties which can affect game egg production
- K32 the importance of good egg fertility and the variations in fertility which occur during the egg laying season
- K33 the reasons for keeping records and the importance of their accuracy

LANGa16v1

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