

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

The following outlines the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

This module covers husbandry, welfare and management for broiler chickens, layer chickens, and breeder chickens.

All aspects of management and welfare in all common production systems, including free range and organic

- Ventilation
- Feeding
- Water
- Rearing, egg layers, breeders and growers
- 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

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.

Assessment Strategy

3 x reflective case reports (1500 words each), 1 x open book short answer question and/or MCQ test and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)

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.