

C-POU.2 Meat 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 for the following species: broiler chickens, layer chickens, and breeder chickens.

Most major diseases and their diagnosis:

- Viral diseases
- Bacterial diseases
- Fungal disease
- Protozoal diseases
- Parasites and parasitic diseases
- Toxicity
- Metabolic disorders
- Nutritional disorders and deficiencies
- Zoonosis
- Miscellaneous diseases

Laboratory procedures & methods:

- Post Mortem
- Serology
- Virology
- Bacteriology
- Molecular biological techniques
- Histopathology
- Limitations of diagnostic techniques

Preventative programmes:

- Biosecurity and a Health Plan
- Prophylactic treatment
- Immunology
- Vaccines and vaccination
- Vaccination techniques
- Surveillance and monitoring

Therapy

- Antimicrobial
- Alternative therapies
- Metabolic
- Supportive
- Administration principles & techniques

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 meat producing poultry;
2. Develop the 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 meat poultry production systems 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 meat production poultry;
3. Critically appraise current approaches to diagnosing diseases affecting meat production poultry, incorporating in-depth knowledge of infectious (including notifiable) and non-infectious poultry disease and the effect of these diseases on poultry health, welfare and production;
4. Design, execute and monitor biosecurity and flock health programmes for meat production poultry flocks;
5. Effectively evaluate, choose and implement appropriate preventive and therapeutic strategies for the management of meat poultry disease, 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 meat production 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.