

## C-POU.3 Gamebirds and Backyard 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.

Part A of this module covers husbandry and management and disease for growing turkeys, breeder turkeys, ducks, geese, and game birds. Part B covers hatcheries and incubation of poultry. Part C covers poultry processing and Part D covers legislation and codes of practice relevant to the poultry industry.

**A)** This section covers husbandry and management and disease for the following species: growing turkeys, breeder turkeys, ducks, geese, and game birds. Content is restricted to where there is significant variation from those species discussed in Modules C1 and C2

#### **Major diseases their diagnosis and treatment, control or prevention:**

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

**B)** This section covers most aspects relevant to veterinary involvement in a Hatchery and the Incubation process

- The incubation process
- Management and organization of a hatchery
- Cleaning and Disinfection of a hatchery
- Chick processing
- Assessing Hatchery performance
- Common hatchery health and welfare issues

**C)** Poultry processing at primary and further processing levels

- Processes in both small throughput and high throughput plants
- Common causes of carcass rejection and downgrades.
- Legislation of food production

- Legislation related to low and high throughput plants
- Working knowledge of the white meat regulations

**D)** A list is provided of the UK legislation and codes of practice related to animal welfare with special reference to poultry species.

- Animal welfare
- Welfare of farmed animals regulations
- Welfare of animals in transport
- Welfare of animals at slaughter
- Zoonotic and notifiable diseases
- Feed Manufacture

## 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 husbandry, management, and diseases, of game birds and backyard poultry, including chickens, geese and other minor species;
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 the complex interactions between management, breeding, genetics, nutrition, environment, behaviour, health, welfare, productivity, food quality and food safety of gamebirds and backyard poultry;
2. Critically appraise current approaches to diagnosing diseases affecting gamebirds and backyard 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;
3. Design, execute and monitor biosecurity and flock health programmes for gamebirds and backyard poultry flocks;
4. Effectively evaluate, choose and implement appropriate preventive and therapeutic strategies for the management of poultry disease in gamebirds and backyard poultry, including non-pharmaceutical/pharmaceutical or biological products in UK, and their usage and limitations;
5. Critically appraise the legislation, assurance schemes, practice codes/guidance relating to gamebirds and backyard poultry health, management, welfare, food safety and zoonoses;
6. 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.