FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL N-DIPLOMA

Farming Management N4-N6

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 12 Certificate

DURATION
3½ Years (24 months theory and 18 months practical work experience)

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAMME ABOUT?
Students credited with this National Diploma will understand how producers manage the farm business in the agricultural environment. They will also understand the management functions, production decisions, how to utilise resources, manage finances and evaluate agricultural assets. They will also understand the economics of plant and animal production and how to conduct marketing. Through the computer modules the student is presented with the theoretical knowledge that they will need to be computer literate to manage the farm.

WHAT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ARE OUT THERE?
- Farmer
- Farm Supervisor
- Farm Manager
- Agricultural Product Representative
- Farming Consultant
- Agricultural Produce Marketer
- Product Inspector

WHAT SUBJECTS WILL I BE TAKING?

FIRST YEAR
N4, First Semester
- Management: Farming
- Data Management: Farming
- Financial Management: Farming
- Maintenance Management: Farming

N5, Second Semester
- Management: Farming
- Data Management: Farming
- Financial Management: Farming
- Maintenance Management: Farming

SECOND YEAR
N6, First Semester
- Management: Farming
- Data Management: Farming
- Dairy Production
- Field Production
- Plant Nutrition
- Applied Farming Techniques

N6, Second Semester
- Data Management: Farming
- Financial Management: Farming
- Management: Farming
- Dairy Production
- Vine Production
- Mutton Production

WHAT DO THESE SUBJECTS ENTAIL?

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: FARMING
Financial Management: Farming teaches the basic accounting principles in relation to farm management. The subject matter focuses on farm budgeting systems, analysis of information systems and the interpretation of financial statements, balance sheets and income statements.

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT: FARMING
This field of study empowers the student with skills to do basic maintenance on the farm. It includes vehicle maintenance, basic welding techniques, building and electrical installations as well as health and safety procedures.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: FARMING
Human Resource Management: Farming gives the student a background of human resource management focusing on human resource provisioning, compensation and benefits, labour relations in farming and legislation dealing with human resource management. The interaction with unions is also discussed.
NATIONAL N-DIPLOMA

Farming Management N4-N6 (CONTINUED)

DAIRY PRODUCTION

Dairy Production discusses dairy breeds along with the care and feeding of calves. This is followed by material on developing replacement livestock, managing dry and lactating cows, and an overview of the feeding of dairy animals. Finally, general management of a dairy herd is covered. Students are also exposed to a practical course in Artificial Insemination.

FRUIT PRODUCTION

Fruit Production starts off with the basic soil characteristics and nutritional requirements of the fruit tree and continues into Stages of Tree Development to give the student an understanding of the commercial tree. This is followed by climate, pollination and fruit set with an appropriate discourse on fruit thinning. General orchard management gives the student an idea of soil preparation, pruning, fertilisation, irrigation and weed control. At the completion of the subject the student will have an understanding of rootstocks, harvesting of fruit and post-harvest technology.

PLANT NUTRITION

Plant Nutrition will equip students with the ability to apply soil nutrient preparations in a safe, effective and responsible manner to the benefit of plant and crop growth. Students will gain specific knowledge and skills in soil fertilisation and plant nutrition and will be able to operate in a plant production environment implementing sustainable and economically viable production principles.

APPLIED FARMING TECHNIQUES

In Applied Farming Techniques, the student is exposed to some basic concepts as used in a farming operation. Examples include:

- Basic measuring by applying various methods, as well as how to set out right angles and orchard/vineyard corners.
- Basic tunnel production and food security, including the advantages of tunnel production of food over a period of time, basic hygiene to be applied, as well as pest and disease control in a controlled environment.
- Spray machinery, including the types of pumps used on equipment and the choice of pump.
- Calibration is done on centrifugal fan equipment and boom sprays.
- Granular fertiliser application is also covered.
- Students will be exposed to basic fencing and trellising, and will be able to put in corner posts and span wire.

VINE PRODUCTION

Vine Production covers the basic concepts of vineyard production with emphasis on grape production. Importance of climate, soil, rootstock and cultivar combinations are reviewed along with the process of vineyard preparation and management of the established vineyard. The students are exposed to some practical work on the College demonstration site.

MUTTON PRODUCTION

Mutton Production discusses the important sheep breeds along with reproduction management and selection. The development of the sheep is covered as well as the handling of sheep to obtain quality products.

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