

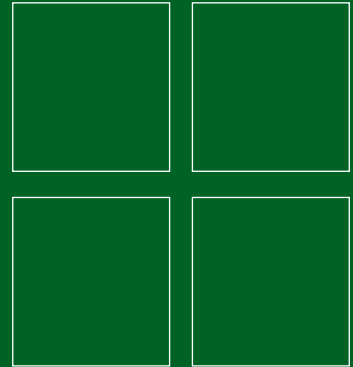
Agricultural and Rural Studies



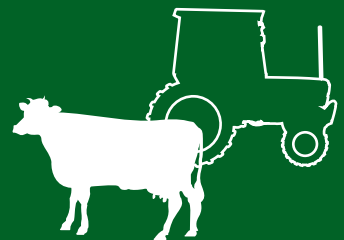
College of Agriculture,  
Food & Rural Enterprise

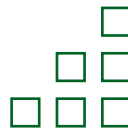
# Agriculture and Rural Studies

2011



Department of Agriculture  
and Rural Development  
[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

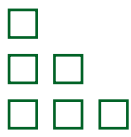




## College overview

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) is the Centre of Excellence within Northern Ireland for education and training in food and land-based subjects. The College, with campus locations at Enniskillen, Greenmount (Antrim) and Loughry (Cookstown) offers a wide and unique range of courses in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, equine, food and rural studies.

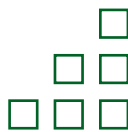
An extensive range of full and part-time courses, and dedicated staff with strong industry links combine to ensure that our students gain the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in challenging and rewarding careers in the agri-food and rural industries. If you wish to find out more, contact us to arrange a visit to view our superb range of resources and modern facilities.



Farming and its related processing industries provide over 47,000 jobs and produce a gross added value of £878 million per annum. With the current issues facing the agricultural industry, including globalisation, Common Agricultural Policy reforms, cross compliance, sustainability and food safety, it is imperative that those considering a career in the industry are capable of adapting and embracing new technologies, policies and marketing opportunities.

There are excellent employment opportunities for students with recognised qualifications within the land based sector. Employers are continuously looking for graduates with a sound grasp of new developments and a proven ability to manage complex businesses and enterprises.

At Greenmount Campus, the agriculture programmes are tailored to produce such graduates and have repeatedly received industry endorsement.



## BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Technology\*

### Duration:

Three or four years depending on work placement duration.

### Location:

Greenmount Campus and Queen's University.

### Entry requirements:

BBB at 'A' Level including a science subject (or equivalent). This entry requirement is set by Queen's University Belfast.

### How to apply:

UCAS code: D470 (4 year)  
D473 (3 year).

### Main areas of study:

Animal production, crop production, agricultural marketing and economics, business management.

### Progression opportunities:

Graduates can progress to a range of specialist MSc programmes or alternatively study towards a relevant PhD.



### Student's view: Mark Williams

"From a young age agriculture has been extremely influential in my life and that is why I have chosen to pursue it as my future career. I applied for the BSc (Hons) Agricultural Technology course and another course in England. The content of this course attracted me along with its links with Queen's. CAFRE has an excellent reputation. Both my grandfather and father studied at Greenmount and regard their experiences and tuition as second to none. Greenmount has a reputation of being at the forefront of the industry and I am making sure I benefit from this expertise."

\*Course offered in partnership with Queen's University Belfast



## Foundation Degree in Agriculture and Rural Studies (replaces the Higher National Diploma in Agriculture)

### Duration:

Two and half years including work placement.

### Location:

Greenmount Campus.

### Entry requirements:

Normally 100 UCAS tariff points, preferably with a Science subject at A2 level, plus four GCSE subjects at Grade C or above including English, Mathematics and Science.

Applicants must have a background in agriculture or rural enterprises.

### How to apply:

UCAS code: 004D.

### Main areas of study:

Environmental management, sustainable enterprise management, crop production systems, human resource management and organic production.

### Progression opportunities:

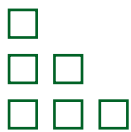
Graduates can progress onto a relevant Honours Degree programme at the University of Ulster or the BSc (Hons) Degree in Agricultural Technology.



### Student's view: Siobhan McCloskey

"From starting study at Greenmount this year, I have found the tutors on the course to be really friendly. My classmates are good craic, and they all come from similar farming backgrounds, which is really nice. I'm taking the UPLANDS enterprise option in my first year, which means we work on the Glenwherry Hill Farm during the week. I aim to go to Australia for my placement year, along with a couple of my friends from the course to maximise the benefits of our course and study."





## Foundation Degree in Agriculture and Rural Studies (part-time)

### Duration:

Minimum of four years part-time.

### Location:

Greenmount Campus.

### Entry requirements:

Normally 100 UCAS tariff points, preferably with a Science subject at A2 level, plus four GCSE subjects at Grade C or above including English, Mathematics and Science.

Applicants must be working in agriculture or a rural enterprise.

### How to apply:

Direct application to the College.

### Main areas of study:

Environmental management, sustainable enterprise management, crop production systems, human resource management and organic production.

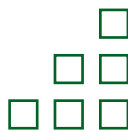
### Progression opportunities:

Graduates can progress onto a relevant Honours Degree programme at the University of Ulster or the BSc (Hons) Degree in Agricultural Technology.



### Student's view: Peter Courtney

"As a part-time student, the course structure gives the freedom to select a range of modules which interest me, giving me an understanding of rural issues and an insight into job opportunities in the area. The field trips are wonderful opportunities to gain insights into the principles behind habitat management practices, making the theory logical and relevant; it also helps you to retain the information, important when you come to complete exams."



## **BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture** (formerly known as the National Diploma in Agriculture)

### **Duration:**

Three years including work placement in second year.

### **Location:**

Greenmount Campus.

### **Entry requirements:**

Normally four GCSE subjects at Grade C or above, including Mathematics, English and a Science subject plus the equivalent of one year's relevant industry experience which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

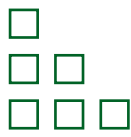
or

A NCA with a minimum of three units at Distinction level and all units at Credit level or above and Grade C in English and Mathematics or equivalent.

or

Where applicants are over 18, length of relevant industry experience, performance in a multiple choice assessment and an interview may be used to determine suitability.





## **BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture** continued

### **How to apply:**

Direct application to the College.

### **Main areas of study:**

Livestock production, animal health, machinery operation, business planning business management and grassland and crop production.

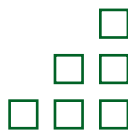
### **Progression opportunities:**

Students may progress onto the Foundation Degree in Agriculture, or in exceptional cases, to the Degree in Agricultural Technology.



### **Student's view: Canice Quinn**

"I come from a beef and sheep farm in Ballymartin, Co. Down. Even though I have grown up on a farm I knew there was a lot more for me to learn. I arrived at Greenmount and immediately made loads of new friends from all over the country. The practical training and experience I get at CAFRE is great; probably the part I enjoy best about the course. It is a good feeling being able to tell the folks at home new ways to do things!"



## **NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Agriculture** (formerly known as the National Certificate in Agriculture)

### **Duration:**

One year.

### **Location:**

Greenmount Campus.

### **Entry requirements:**

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE plus the equivalent of one year's relevant industry experience which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

### **How to apply:**

Direct application to the College.

### **Main areas of study:**

Tractor operation and maintenance, crop establishment, livestock nutrition and animal husbandry. Over half of the course is devoted to practical skills training.

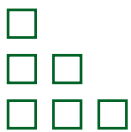
### **Progression opportunities:**

Students may progress onto the NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture or Extended Diploma courses.



### **Student's view: Kevin Fullerton**

"After talking to various past students I decided to look into CAFRE courses. The Diploma in Agriculture suited me best as it has all that I was looking for and more. It also means that I get home to work on the farm after one year of study. The variety of subjects covered is one of the best things about the course. I am learning lots and it's great to see things demonstrated on the farms after they have been explained in class. I will definitely go home prepared to tackle the challenges of farming and who knows, may even come back to CAFRE to do a part-time course!"



## **NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture/ Level 3 Apprenticeship in Agriculture**

### **Duration:**

78 weeks, day-release including work experience.

### **Location:**

Greenmount Campus.

### **Entry requirements:**

Level 2 Apprenticeship, NCA or equivalent plus two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE, or equivalent. Where applicants are over 18, length of relevant industry experience, performance in a multiple choice assessment and an interview will be used to determine suitability.

### **How to apply:**

Direct application to the College.

### **Main areas of study:**

Students specialise in their main livestock interest, which can be milk, beef or poultry production. Other components include specialist qualifications e.g. Telescopic Handler training as well as Essential Skills in Numeracy, Literacy and ICT.

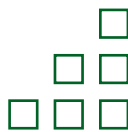
### **Progression opportunities:**

Students who successfully complete the course may progress onto higher level courses in agriculture.



### **Student's view: Owen Kelly**

"I am working at home with my father on our suckler and sheep farm in Co. Down near Dromara. We also build stone walls, plant hedges and erect fencing. I completed the National Certificate in Agriculture last year but decided to study further to achieve a higher qualification in agriculture. This course is ideal for me as I can complete the course whilst working at home."



## **NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture/ Level 2 Apprenticeship in Agriculture**

### **Duration:**

78 weeks, day-release including work experience.

### **Location:**

Greenmount Campus, Enniskillen Campus and outcentres.

### **Entry requirements:**

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE plus the equivalent of one year's relevant industry experience which can be acquired prior to leaving school. Applicants will also be required to pass a multiple choice assessment

testing their agricultural knowledge at interview.

### **How to apply:**

Direct application to the College.

### **Main areas of study:**

The emphasis is on practical skills training such as tractor operation, routine treatments, feeding livestock and keeping farm records. Additional specialist qualifications can be obtained e.g. manual handling, foundation module in pesticide application.

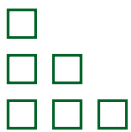
### **Progression opportunities:**

NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture or the full-time Extended Diploma course.



### **Student's view: Scott Thompson**

"We have 180 non registered pedigree Holstein cows milking and we rear and supply Foyle Meats with Holstein cross Limousin bull beef. I will be going home to farm when I complete this course and I have already completed some of the certificates I need; i.e. tractor driving, telehandler and spraying. I have also been taught about the nutrition of feeding the dairy herd and how to calculate the amount of silage in our pits. The course was also of great benefit to me recently as I travelled to Australia to work on farms there."



## Multi-Skilling Programme

### Duration:

59 - 78 weeks depending on the main skills category.

### Location:

Greenmount Campus.

### Entry requirements:

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE plus the equivalent of one year's relevant industry experience which can be acquired prior to leaving school. Applicants will also be required to pass a multiple choice assessment testing their agricultural knowledge at interview.

Trainees need to enrol with a Training Organisation and meet the entry requirements for their chosen trade.

### How to apply:

Direct application to the College.

### Main areas of study:

The aim is to provide young people with an opportunity to train in agriculture and another discipline so that employment can be secured in a trade in addition to farming part-time.

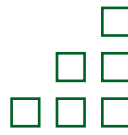
### Progression opportunities:

NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture programme.



### Student's view: William Graham

"I am currently completing this course alongside the Level 3 in Land-based Technology. We have a beef and sheep farm at home but we are considering going into dairying, my father also works as a mechanic. This course is proving to be very useful to me as it is giving me a better understanding of livestock, the general workings of the animal, in particular, welfare. We are learning how to identify the early symptoms of disease or ill-health and their prevention and cure. I will be going home to farm when I complete this course, but also hope to progress onto the next level of study."



## Careers in Agriculture

### Farm owners/managers

Some graduates return to farming as either owners or managers. Successful farmers need to have the necessary technical and practical competencies, coupled with the ability to make sound business decisions in a changing environment. They must appreciate the need to satisfy consumer requirements for safe, wholesome, high quality food produced in an environmentally-friendly manner.

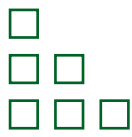
### Consultants/Technical advisers

Graduates employed in this sector will require a sound technical background so that they can help farmers identify and deal with technical problems in addition to assisting and advising on the possibilities for the development of farm businesses.

Good communication skills, an innovative outlook and the ability to advise individuals and companies on future action are all very important in this job area.

### Teachers/Lecturers

Graduates may find interesting and rewarding careers in this area. College lecturers normally require Degree level qualifications, and a good technical knowledge of farming and the industry in general, coupled with the ability to interpret information and teach others.



## Journalists

Being an agricultural journalist is all about meeting deadlines and looking at new and different ways to cover a story. The wide variety of agricultural newspapers and magazines which exist ensure a diverse range of job opportunities in this area. The opportunity to travel and talk to a range of people involved in the industry is provided through this career route.

## Researchers

Continuous research is vital if any industry is to keep up-to-date. This also applies to the agriculture sector. Careers exist in this area for those interested in science who enjoy working in a laboratory situation or alternatively may be involved in statistical research looking at trends within the industry and future forecasts.

## Farm liaison representatives

Food processing companies employ farm liaison representatives to strengthen links with the farmers who supply their raw materials. They must have a sound technical knowledge of the relevant agricultural enterprise and an understanding of the processing operation. They may be involved in marketing or encouraging new suppliers and assessing their suitability. They are also responsible for updating existing producers on changing requirements.

## Course contacts

For further information please refer to our prospectus or website or contact the relevant Course Managers:

Course Title: BSc (Hons) Degree, Foundation Degree,  
Certificate of Higher Education  
Course Manager: Ciaran Mulholland  
Email: [ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk)

Course Title: Extended Diploma/NPTC Level 2  
Diploma in Agriculture  
Course Manager: Kenneth Johnston  
Email: [kenneth.johnston@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:kenneth.johnston@dardni.gov.uk)

Course Title: NPTC Level 3 and Level 2 Diplomas  
in Work-based Agriculture and  
Multi-skilling Programme  
Course Manager: Derek McKinstry  
Email: [derek.mckinstry@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:derek.mckinstry@dardni.gov.uk)

Enniskillen Campus  
2 Mullaghmeen Road  
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Loughry Campus  
76 Dungannon Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 9AA

Greenmount Campus  
45 Tirgracy Road  
Muckamore  
Antrim  
BT41 4PS

Freephone: 0800 0284291  
Tel from Rol: 048 9442 6921  
Textphone: 028 9052 4420  
Email: [enquiries@cafre.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@cafre.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.cafre.ac.uk](http://www.cafre.ac.uk)

Where a course is oversubscribed, CAFRE reserves the right to make offers to those who meet the entry criteria as detailed on our website and prospectus. Closing date for receipt of applications is 31st July for the intended year of entry.

If you require this leaflet in an alternative format please freephone College Administration on 0800 0284291 quoting: Agriculture 2011 entry.

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