VETASSESS

Information sheet

Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmer

ANZSCO: 121411

About this document

- The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.
- Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education.
- The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken.
- Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

Job description

Plans, organises, controls, coordinates and performs farming operations to both grow crops and to breed and raise livestock.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Cattle and Wheat Farmer
- Lifestyle Block Farmer (NZ)
- Sheep and Wheat Farmer

Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmer is a VETASSESS Group B occupation

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher.

Applicants can fulfil the assessment criteria for this occupation in four different ways.

*If employment is prior to the completion of the qualification at the required level, an applicant must have at least one year of highly relevant employment at an appropriate skill level within the last five years. The remaining five years of pre-qualifying period may be within the last ten years.

A positive assessment of both qualification level and employment duration is required for a positive Skills Assessment outcome.

GROUP B	Criteria for a suitable Skills Assessment			
	Minimum comparable Bachelor or higher degree AQF level	With highly relevant major field of study	Additional highly relevant qualifications	Highly relevant employment duration
1	AQF		N/A	1 YEAR minimum
2	AQF	No highly relevant major	Minimum AQF Diploma level with highly relevant major	2 YEARS minimum
3	AQF	No highly relevant major	No additional highly relevant qualifications	3 YEARS minimum
Pre-qualification methodology can apply to Group B occupations				
	Highly relevant employment duration	With or without highly relevant major field of study	Additional highly relevant qualifications	Comparable Bachelor degree AQF level
4	5 YEARS minimum + 1 YEAR minimum (Within last 5 years)	N/A	N/A	AQF

Description of Pathways

The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under **Group B**. Please note that in order to achieve a suitable Skills Assessment Outcome, a positive assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Pathway 1

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 2

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree.

An additional qualification in a highly relevant field of study at a minimum AQF Diploma level is required. Additional qualifications in a highly relevant field of study include those comparable to the AQF Diploma or AQF Advanced Diploma or AQF Associate Degree or AQF Graduate Diploma.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **two** years of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

For example, an applicant for the occupation Quality Assurance Manager completed a non-relevant AQF Bachelor qualification in April 2024 and later completed an AQF Diploma in Quality Management in May 2026. The applicant commenced employment with the organisation in May 2024 and remains employed there.

Under Pathway 2, the applicant satisfies the minimum educational requirement for a Group B occupation through the AQF Bachelor qualification. Accordingly, employment is counted from the completion date of the Bachelor qualification, meaning employment from May 2024 onwards may be considered toward both the required Qualifying Period (QP) and any remaining eligible period for the points test.

As the later Diploma qualification is highly relevant to the occupation, the applicant may access the reduced employment requirement applicable under Pathway 2. In this case, only two years of QP are required, and that employment may be counted from the post-Bachelor period rather than from the Diploma qualification completion date.

Pathway 3

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **three** years of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 4

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree with or without a highly relevant major field of study to the nominated occupation.

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **six** years of employment at an appropriate skill level that includes at least **one** year of highly relevant employment within the last five years before applying,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Qualification

On a case-by-case basis:

- Horticulture (would need to see that they have studied crop farming or specific plant types - sugar, tobacco, wheat, fruit and nuts, vegetables, or production horticulture - studying the cultivation and maintenance of such produce as berries, nuts, fruit, vegetables and other crops. These products can be exported as either fresh or dried produce. Production horticulturists are involved in all of the associated production processes.)
- Botany and plant sciences (would expect to see studies in crop farming, or specific plant types - sugar, tobacco, wheat, fruit and nuts, vegetables)
- Permaculture
- Environmental science - if sustainable farming methods included

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Employment Criteria

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Planning and coordinating the production and marketing of crops and livestock
- Breeding and raising livestock for the production of meat, wool, skins, milk or eggs, and growing grain, seed crops, vegetables, fruit or nuts
- Monitoring and maintaining the health and condition of livestock
- Providing pastures and fodder to maintain appropriate nutritional levels
- Selecting and purchasing seed for planting, planning and implementing breeding programs
- Directing and overseeing general farming activities such as fertilising, and pest and weed control
- Maintaining farm buildings, fences, equipment and water supply systems
- Organising the sale, purchase and transportation of livestock and produce
- Maintaining and evaluating records of farming activities, monitoring market activity and planning production accordingly
- Managing business capital, monitoring market activity and planning production accordingly
- May select, train and supervise staff and contractors

Additional tasks may include

Decide or advise on the kind of crops to be grown and the area to be sown or planted	› Plan and manage the production and marketing of crops from soil preparation to harvest taking into account environmental and market factors › Select and plant seeds, seedlings, bulbs and graft new varieties to root stocks › Maintain crops by cultivating soil, de-budding, pruning and maintaining optimal growing conditions › Organise and conduct farming operations such as collecting, sorting, grading and packaging produce › Organise the sale, purchase and transportation of produce › Direct and oversee general farming activities such as fertilising, pest and weed control and maintain farm buildings, fences, equipment and water supply systems › Plan crop preparation and production to meet contract requirements and market demand › Recruit, coordinate and direct farm workers › Manage business capital, maintain and evaluate records of farming activities and monitor market activity › Plan activities to minimise environmental degradation, monitor environmental effects of farming activities and repair existing damage through programs such as tree planting.