

Module Title:	Organic Cereal Production	
Language of Instruction:	English	
Credits:	5	
NFQ Level:	8	
Module Delivered In	1 programme(s)	
Teaching & Learning Strategies:	A mixture of formal lectures along with polytunnel practicals and facilitated crop walks and discussion group type activity to encourage the learner to critically analyse aspects of organic cereal production. Learners will follow crop management on selected organic farms and critically analyse the inputs and management of the various crops. Visiting Lecturers, site visits and case studies will be used to supplement the learning delivered in lectures. This will expose the student to the marketing and processing businesses that supply organic feed and food.	
Module Aim:	The module aims to build upon the skills acquired from the previous crop production modules. Students will acquire the skillset necessary to sustainably manage organic crops at farm level, and in particular combinable cereals. The learner will have a deeper understanding of the agronomy and marketability of organic cereal crops including the role of rotations with non-cereal crops, the use of winter cover crops and grain quality criteria for organic production. Finally, farm based processing of grains and direct marketing to the consumer will be explored.	
Learning Outcomes		
On successful completion of this module the learner should be able to:		
LO1	Have a knowledge of the various technologies that are available to organic farmers for the successful establishment and management of organic cereals including the role of integrated pest management for a sustainable cereal crop.	
LO2	Learners will have knowledge of the role of rotations, winter cover crops and under-sown mixes in the production of a sustainable yield of organic grains	
LO3	Have an appreciation of the most up to date regulations that apply to organic cereal production including the regulations on feed manufacture as it applies to organic cereal growers that process and market their own grains.	
LO4	The learner will be able to appraise the various markets and processing options that are available to organic cereal grows to optimise farm profitability.	
Pre-requisite learning		
Module Recommendations This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is recommended before enrolment in this module.		
10792	AGRI C1706	Crop and Grassland Management on Organic Farms
Incompatible Modules These are modules which have learning outcomes that are too similar to the learning outcomes of this module.		
No incompatible modules listed		
Co-requisite Modules		
No Co-requisite modules listed		
Requirements This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed.		
Learners should have taken Crop and Grassland Management on Organic Farms or an equivalent prior to taking this module. A knowledge of soil science is also useful.		

Module Content & Assessment

Indicative Content

Enhancing Crop Productivity

Areas such as winter cover crops, the role of under sown legumes and short and long term rotation strategies will be discussed in the context of obtaining a sustainable yield of cereal.

Cereal Crop Agronomy

Strategies around the key agronomic practices for organic cereal crops. Site selection. Seed rates. Sowing Dates. Weed, insect and disease control.

Markets for Organic Grains

The learner will examine the potential returns from the market place for various cereal crops including the market spec for these grains. The concept of home processing of the cereal grain will be explored as well as the availability of medium term and long term contracts for the supply of organic cereals to food and feed manufacturers and farm to farm selling.

Assessment Breakdown	%
Project	30.00%
Practical	20.00%
End of Module Formal Examination	50.00%

No Continuous Assessment

Project

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Project	Students will create a detailed agronomy plan for the production of up to 3 crops on an organic farm.	1,2,3,4	30.00	n/a

Practical

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Practical/Skills Evaluation	Students will be required to conduct plant counts, tiller counts, identify growth stages.	1,2	20.00	n/a

End of Module Formal Examination

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Formal Exam	Terminal Examination	1,2,3	50.00	End-of-Semester

No Continuous Assessment

Project

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Project	Students will create a detailed agronomy plan for the production of up to 3 crops on an organic farm.	1,2,3,4	30.00	n/a

Practical

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Practical/Skills Evaluation	Students will be required to conduct plant counts, tiller counts, identify growth stages.	1,2	20.00	n/a

End of Module Formal Examination

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Formal Exam	Terminal Examination	1,2,3,4	50.00	End-of-Semester

Module Workload

Workload: Full Time		
<i>Workload Type</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Average Weekly Learner Workload</i>
Lecture	12 Weeks per Stage	2.00
Practicals	12 Weeks per Stage	1.00
Independent Learning	12 Weeks per Stage	3.00
Total Hours		72.00

Workload: Part Time		
<i>Workload Type</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Average Weekly Learner Workload</i>
Lecture	12 Weeks per Stage	2.00
Practicals	12 Weeks per Stage	1.00
Independent Learning	12 Weeks per Stage	3.00
Total Hours		72.00

Module Delivered In

Programme Code	Programme	Semester	Delivery
CW_SWOAG_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Organic Agriculture	8	Group Elective 3