Programme Syllabus for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme, 180 credits

1. Decision
On 16-17 June 2009, the Board of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) established the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme. The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board at the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Sciences on 15 September 2009, to be valid from the academic year 2010/11. Revisions have been made the 2 July 2010 and 25 May 2012*. The latest revision applies from the academic year 2012/13.

The Agricultural and Rural Management Programme leads to a Higher Education Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management and a Degree of Bachelor comprising 180 credits. The programme has the following programme code: LK006.

2. Prior knowledge and other entry requirements

2.1 Previous studies
Admission to the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme requires, besides general eligibility, special eligibility as specified in field-specific eligibility 15:

- Mathematics B
- Social Studies A
- Natural Studies B (or Physics A, Chemistry A, Biology A)

In addition, weighted courses as specified in Field-specific eligibility 15 apply.

Grade requirements: in each individual course above, the applicant must have earned at least a pass grade.

The requirements for special eligibility as described above can also be fulfilled with corresponding qualifications from current or earlier Swedish education. The requirement can also be fulfilled if the corresponding knowledge has been acquired in some other way.

Admission to the different courses included in the programme is subject to individual eligibility requirements for each one.

2.2 Relevant work experience
To be eligible for acceptance onto the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme, relevant previous work experience is required according to one of the following alternatives:

- at least 24 months of relevant work experience or
- 500 high school credits in courses in agriculture and at least 18 months of relevant work experience, or
- at least 40 weeks of college education specialising in agriculture and at least 12 months of relevant work experience.
Relevant work experience means that the work experience must be well-rounded and cover several of the areas of plant production, animal production, technology/construction engineering and agricultural economics. Such work is valid from the time the student reaches 18 years of age. Work experience can be carried out on a full-time or part-time basis, but it must be at least half-time. Part-time work is recalculated to a full-time basis. Work experience must be verified by a certificate of work.

Admission to the different courses included in the programme is subject to individual eligibility requirements for each one.

3. Intended learning outcomes

3.1. General learning outcomes

In accordance with the Swedish Higher Education Act (Chapter 1, Section 8), first-cycle programmes “shall develop the students’
- ability to make independent and critical assessments,
- ability to independently perceive, formulate and solve problems, and
- preparedness to deal with change in working life.

In the educational field concerned, in addition to knowledge and skills, students shall develop an ability to
- seek and evaluate knowledge at a scholarly level,
- follow the development of knowledge, and
- exchange knowledge with other people, including people without specialist knowledge of the field.”

3.2. Specific learning outcomes for the Degree of Bachelor

In accordance with the supplement to the Ordinance for Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), the student must achieve the following learning outcomes for a Bachelor of Science:

For a Bachelor of Science the student must demonstrate such knowledge and ability as are required for working independently as an agricultural technologist.

Knowledge and understanding
For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall have:
- demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field, understanding of applicable methodologies in the field, specialized study in some aspect of the field as well as awareness of current research issues.

Competence and skills
For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall have:
- demonstrated the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret relevant information for a formulated problem and also discuss phenomena, issues and situations critically
- demonstrated the ability to identify, formulate and solve problems autonomously and to complete tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrated the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrated the skills required to work autonomously in the main field of study.

Judgement and approach
For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall have:
- demonstrated the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues
- demonstrated insight into the role of knowledge in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrated the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

3.3. Detailed learning outcomes for a Degree of Bachelor within the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme
Within the framework of the learning outcomes in the qualification description, SLU has further specified the following learning outcomes for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme:

Knowledge and understanding
To obtain a Degree of Bachelor, students must:
- demonstrate factual knowledge of biology, economics and technology and of scientific methods relevant for agriculture and related sectors
- demonstrate knowledge of resources and methods for the production of goods and services based on agriculture
- demonstrate an understanding of how to combine practical and theoretical knowledge on a scientific basis within the sector and an understanding of the overall picture and the processes within the area of agriculture.

Competence and skills
To obtain a Degree of Bachelor, students must:
- demonstrate the skills and competences required for independently running a company within the agricultural sector
- demonstrate the ability to convert research results into practical operations and have developed an ability to inform others about the operations and to conduct a dialogue with the external environment regarding agriculture and its development
- demonstrate the ability to critically analyse and assess relevant information and to report and discuss problems and solutions orally and in writing, as well as the knowledge and argument that form the basis for these, in dialogue with various target groups
- demonstrate the skills and competences required for independently planning, leading and carrying out work and taking responsibility for operations agriculture and related areas.

Judgement and approach
To obtain a Degree of Bachelor, students must:
- demonstrate the ability to make assessments within the area of agricultural operations with regard to cross-disciplinary aspects of production, marketing, the environment, function, ethics and society
- have developed a focused, critical approach to the profession of farm manager and its role in society
- have the ability to evaluate personal knowledge and limitations in the course of professional work
- have the ability to independently identify their need for additional knowledge

4. Possibilities for further study

A student who has completed the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme and obtained the Degree of Bachelor of Science meet the specific entry requirements for admission to further studies in for example the following types of programmes at SLU:

- Second-cycle programmes

The available programmes are specified in an appendix which is approved by the Board of education on first and second cycle at the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Sciences.

5. Content and structure

5.1. Courses
The courses included in the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme are established by the Board of education on first and second cycle at the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Sciences and are presented in an appendix to the programme syllabus which also contains a description of the programme structure. Intended learning outcomes and course content are presented in the syllabus for each course. Special instructions regarding independent projects are also approved by the faculty.

5.2. Structure
The Agricultural and Rural Management Programme is provided at first-cycle level. The programme comprises 100 credits of compulsory courses and elective courses within the main subjects of biology, business administration, chemistry, agricultural science and technology. Knowledge of the land-based industries is dealt with from an interdisciplinary perspective, with the emphasis on production, marketing, the environment, function and the interaction with the surrounding society. Opportunities exist within the programme for in-depth studies in biology, business administration, agricultural science and technology.

The programme includes lectures, seminars, practicals, exercises, project work, field trips and study visits. The teaching combines theoretical and practical elements, which are linked to research and industry in a national and international perspective.

The programme concludes with an independent project in which students can apply their knowledge, skills and methods of working to an actual issue within one of the areas in the degree.

6. Examination
Each course includes one or several tests. The terms U, 3, 4 or 5 are used for grading the courses, unless there is an exemption decision. Grading criteria are described in a supplement to each course syllabus.
Grades are determined by an examiner appointed by SLU. General rules and guidelines for assessment and grading are presented in internal directives for grading systems and examination rights and in regulations governing education on the first and second cycles at SLU.

7. Degree

7.1. Degree awarded after completion of the study programme

7.1.1. Bachelor of Science

The Agricultural and Rural Management Programme leads to a Degree of Bachelor of Science at first-cycle level in one of the main subjects Agricultural Science, Business Administration, Technology or Biology.

Degree of Bachelor in a main subject according to the programme syllabus for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme is awarded following completion of course requirements comprising 180 credits, according to the following:

- a minimum of 60 credits within the main subject (G1N; G1F)
- a minimum of 15 credits specialized study in the main subject (G2F)
- a minimum of 15 credits independent project within the main subject (G2E) according to approved programme structure and instructions for the programme

The course requirements must also fulfill the following demands:

- 100 credits compulsory programme courses according to approved programme structure,
- 65 credits elective programme courses according to approved programme structure,

A student who fulfils the requirements for a Degree of Bachelor will, upon request, receive a degree certificate. The degree certificate will specify the qualification as a Degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in Agricultural Science/Business Administration/Technology/Biology as described above. The degree certificate will state that the studies are carried out according to the programme syllabus for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme.

7.2. Other degrees the student may be awarded after completion of the programme

7.2.1. Higher Education Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management

A Higher Education Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management is achieved after fulfilled course requirements (passed courses) of 120 credits, including the following demands:

- 110 credits compulsory programme courses according to approved programme structure,
- 10 credits independent project according to approved programme structure.

A student who fulfils the requirements for a Higher Education Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management will, upon request, receive a degree certificate. The degree certificate will specify the qualification as a Higher Education Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management.
7.2.2. Degree of Bachelor
The courses that are included in the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme also meet the requirements of the following higher education qualifications, provided that SLU’s requirements for general qualification are met:

- Degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in Agricultural Science/Business Administration/Technology/Biology.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. Credit transfer
Passed courses from other institutions of higher education, in Sweden or elsewhere, may be credited for in the degree. Deduction of credits can be made if there is substantial overlap between passed courses at SLU and courses that the student wishes to transfer. Credit transfers are not applicable if there is a substantial difference between the courses.

Credit transfer requests are considered on an individual basis. Equivalent knowledge and skills acquired in an occupation may also be credited upon assessment.

8.2. Provisional regulations
Students admitted to the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme before the 1 July 2010 can obtain a Degree of Bachelor, provided that the requirements stated under 7.1.1. are fulfilled. If this student fulfils the requirements according to the approved programme structure, this shall be stated in the degree certificate. A person who has been admitted to and started the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme (120 credits) has the right to be admitted to the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme (180 credits), if there is an open space.

Students admitted to educational programmes at SLU before 1 July 2008 are entitled to have all course grades according to the previous two-grade system in their degree certificates.
Appendix 1 to programme syllabus for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme

Possibilities for further study during the academic year 2012/2013

A student who has completed the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme and obtained the Degree of Bachelor meets the specific entry requirements for admission to second cycle-studies within the relevant main subject:

- Business Administration
- Biology
- Agricultural Sciences
- Technology

Also, the following programmes at second cycle-level are offered at SLU:

- Agroecology
- Environmental Communication and Management
- Rural Development and Natural Resource Management

This appendix is approved by the Board of education on first and second cycle at the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Sciences on 28 March 2012 and is valid for the academic year 2012/2013.
Appendix 2 to programme syllabus for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme

Study plan for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme during the academic year 2012/13

Year 1 (compulsory)
FÖ0368 Business Economics for Rural Enterprises, Part I, 15 credits
KE0059 Chemistry, ecology and statistics, 15 credits
BI1166 Crop production, 20 credits
TN0312 Technology and work environment in crop production and introduction to forestry, 10 credits

Year 2 (compulsory/elective)
TN0310 Technology for animal housing, 10 credits
BI1168 Animal Husbandry I, 20 credits
FÖ0382 Business Economics for Rural Enterprises, Part 2, 20 credits
EX0619 Degree Project for the Agricultural and Rural Management Programme, Agricultural Science, 10 credits
BI1167 Crop Production Instruments, 10 credits
BI1169 Animal Husbandry II, 10 credits
TN0311 Energy systems and energy conservation for rural enterprises, 10 credits

Year 3 (elective)
FÖ0366 Financial Management and Business Law, 15 credits
FÖ0370 Leadership and organization, 15 credits
FÖ0369 Business Strategic Perspectives, 15 credits
TN0254 Building Construction A, 15 credits
TN0318 Agricultural Engineering, 15 credits
TN0256 Planning of rural buildings, 15 credits
BI1184 Sustainable Animal Production Management, 15 credits
BI1192 Sustainable Production Systems in a Global Perspective, 15 credits (English)
BI1193 Sustainable soil management in agroecosystems, 15 credits
EX0356 Degree Project for Business Administration, 15 credits
EX0528 Degree Project for Building Science, 15 credits
EX0744 Degree Project for Agricultural Technology, 15 credits
EX0526 Degree Project in Animal Biology, 15 credits
EX0740 Degree Project for plant biology, 15 credits
EX0743 Degree Project for Agricultural Science, 15 credits

Courses in the programme

Year 1
Four compulsory courses according to the programme structure above.

Year 2
Compulsory courses corresponding to 50 credits and 10 credits elective programme courses according to the programme structure above. An independent project of 10 credits (EX0619) as elective course enables the student to achieve a Higher Education Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management after two years.
Year 3
In-depth subject studies that enables a Degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in Agricultural Science, Biology, Business Administration or Technology.

This appendix to the programme syllabus is approved by the Board of education on first and second cycle at the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Sciences on 28 March 2012 and is valid for the academic year 2012/2013.