



Values Education in the context of Agricultural Science

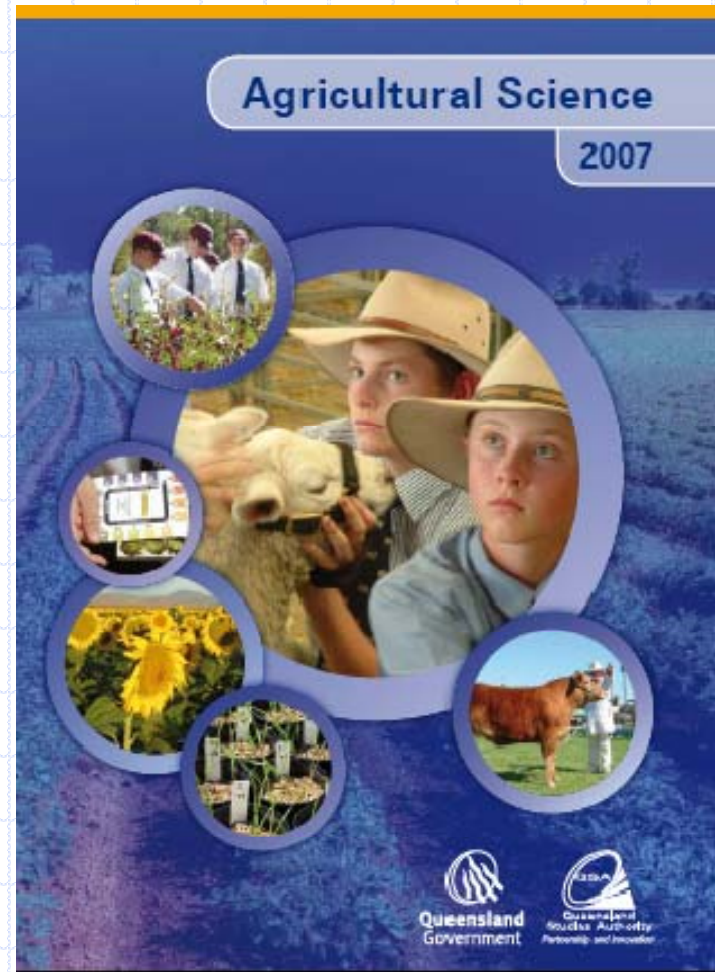
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There are three Agricultural subjects offered under the auspices of the Qld Studies Authority...

- ◆ **Agriculture Education**
(years 8-10)
- ◆ **Agricultural Science**
(years 11-12)
- ◆ **Agriculture & Horticulture Study Area Specification**
(years 11-12)





- Approximately 85 schools throughout Queensland (mostly in rural and regional centres) offer one or more of the agricultural subjects available

Animal Husbandry is an integral part of learning experiences in Agricultural subjects in schools

Schools that use animals must:

- Gain approval from the Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee
- Register with the QDPI&F
- Report annually on their animal use

**As an example,
at SCOTS PGC
College, we
use...**

- ◆ **Cattle**
(both stud cattle
and led steers)



◆ **Sheep** (both stud sheep and prime lambs)



◆ Poultry





- ◆ **Horses -**
we offer a
Certificate II in
Agriculture –
Horse Breeding,
as well as a
successful
Equestrian
team

We promote the 3 R's...

- ◆ **Reduction** (keeping animal numbers to a minimum)
- ◆ **Refinement** (carefully designing field work)
- ◆ **Replacement** (using non-animal alternatives where possible)

However...

...consideration may be given to maintaining the exercise at a scale that allows students to experience an industry perspective and to obtain meaningful results (Syllabus, p10)

The bottom line...

Students are expected to model best practice in the use, care and welfare of animals and, therefore, should be given opportunities to discuss ethical, social and scientific issues that relate to the use of animals in both educational and agricultural systems (Syllabus, p10)

How does it work out in practice?

Year 11 Agricultural Science assignment –

Consumer Survey: Attitudes to alternative housing systems for poultry

In groups you are to:

1. Survey egg consumers to find out their views about the use of battery cages compared to the free-range and barn-rearing systems of egg production.
2. Gather and record data in 'out of school time' and then pool group data (the survey could be administered over the phone, via email or face to face)

Consumer Survey (cont.)

As an individual you are to :

1. Undertake a literature review on the issue of various poultry housing options and then effectively summarize the range of views which are held within the scientific and wider communities
2. Interpret and analyse the data and determine possible implications for the future of the poultry industry
3. Submit a comprehensive written report