

2026 Year 8 Unit Outline

Agriculture

Teacher(s): Megan Matthews

Faculty: Science and Agriculture

Unit Duration: Semester 1 2026

The **Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards in Agriculture** is a *Design and Technologies* course and builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years. By the end of the course students will have had the opportunity to create designed solutions in food and fibre production

Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard (1. Technology and 2. Science: By the end of Year 8, (1.) students explain factors that influence the design of products, services and environments to meet present and future needs. They explain the contribution of design and technology innovations and enterprise to society. Students explain how the features of technologies impact on designed solutions and influence design decisions for each of the prescribed technologies contexts. (2.) They explain the role of specialised cell structures and organelles in cellular function and analyse the relationship between structure and function at organ and body system levels.

Unit Description: *In this unit students study sustainable methods of agriculture for human needs. They study the role of livestock and plants in developing an efficient and productive farm. Students complete several practical projects including propagating plants, rearing animals and maintaining gardens. This unit may contain topics which raise concerns with families in our community. Please contact the class teacher if you have any specific concerns.*

Essential Learning Outcomes developed from the Achievement Standards of the Australian Curriculum:

1. V9.DST.8.01- Explains how people design, innovate and produce products.
2. V9.S.8.01 - Explains the role of specialised cell structures and organelles in cellular function and analyses the relationship between structure and function at organ and body system levels.
3. V9.DST.8.03- Creates and adapts design ideas, processes and solutions, and justifies their decisions against design criteria that include sustainability.
4. V9.DST.8.05- Communicates design ideas and solutions to audiences using technical terms and graphical techniques, including using digital tools.

Materials and Equipment Required: Students are expected to arrive at every class with a class book/folder to write notes for that subject, a writing instrument and a Chromebook or similar, appropriate electronic device. Students are required to provide the following additional materials and equipment: *hat, water bottle, enclosed shoes*

Absences from Class: Students who miss classes due to absence or excursions must negotiate with the class teacher to catch up missed work.

Use of IT in Class: A Google Classroom has been set up for this class. Students will be required to log into this Google Classroom regularly to access course material. Students must bring their Chromebook to all lessons, however, the use of these devices in class will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Homework: Any homework will be directly related to instruction and course requirements, will be assessed appropriately and may impact upon student grades. Examples of homework may include: catch up on missed classwork, revision of classwork, study for tests, assignment work, or preparation for a class presentation.

Late Work: Extensions may be negotiated with individual teachers before the due date

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is copying or using another's work and claiming it as your own. This includes copying, cutting and pasting text or using ideas directly from a text, the internet or some other source without appropriate referencing. If this happens, work may not be graded and students will be asked to discuss the assessment with the classroom teacher and Executive Teacher for that subject. Parents may be contacted as part of this process.

Assessment Portfolio: This contains evidence of work from the opportunities the students have been provided to demonstrate elements of the achievement standard.

Portfolio Assessment Tasks for this subject will include:

	Week / Date Due	Essential Learning
1. Safe and effective farm practical activities	Ongoing	1
2. Goat breeds research	5	2,3
3. Ruminant/ Poultry vs Human Digestive System Poster Task	9	2
4. Planting in Canberra Research Task	14	3,4
5. Classwork	Ongoing	

A-E Reporting Grade Descriptors These are the grades and grade descriptors for reporting at the end of each Semester.

A Demonstrating **excellent** achievement of what is expected (Consistently achieving a proficiency level of 4 or above in each of the Essential Learnings)

B Demonstrating a **high** achievement of what is expected (Consistently achieving a proficiency level of between 3 and 4 in each of the Essential Learnings)

C Demonstrating **satisfactory** achievement of what is expected (Achieving a proficiency level of 3 across the Essential Learnings)

D Demonstrating **partial** achievement of what is expected (Achieving a proficiency of between 1 and 3 across the Essential Learnings)

E Demonstrating **limited** achievement of what is expected (Achieving a proficiency of 1 or less in each of the Essential Learnings)

S **Status** is awarded where unavoidable circumstances have prevented assessment. Must be negotiated with the Principal.

Grade Descriptors and the "C" grade

In ACT public schools the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard is aligned with a 'C' grade. The 'C' grade indicates that your child has demonstrated a satisfactory level of knowledge, understanding and skill in relation to the Achievement Standard.

Appeals

A student must initiate an appeal for any grade with their subject teacher. If a student is dissatisfied with that initial process, they must pursue further appeal through the Faculty Executive Teacher for that subject.

Executive Teacher

Gary Rolfe

02/02/2026