

## Examiner's Report

### Qualifications Framework

### Stage 2: Unit 4 Feed Oral Examiner Report May 2025

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Fifteen candidates sat the exam and marks ranged from 34 to 90% with an average of 64%.

There was an increase in the number of candidates undertaking this exam with inclusion of Level 6 apprentices for the first time.

It was positive to see that generally the standard improved this year with several very strong candidates.

Using the usual format of PowerPoint, slides were shown to candidates supported where appropriate with a verbal description by the examiner. The situations reflect those that a feed officer could typically see at feed premises. Slides in the May exam depicted images of a silage premixure label, farm feed storage areas, a feed delivery note and sampling equipment.

The exam proceeded to assess knowledge of registration requirements, labelling, feed additives, feed hygiene, officer powers and sampling. Candidates are expected to assess and discuss legal compliance, risks and their actions. They should be able to explain their answers and reasons for coming to their conclusions.

Generally, the candidates were sufficiently able to identify the key information from the slides and that verbally provided by the examiner and then apply their subject knowledge to answer the questions posed. Strong candidates were able to provide confident answers, sometimes logically exploring beyond the immediate question posed, thus demonstrating an understanding of the practical application of the legislation and realities of seeking feed compliance.

It was apparent that many candidates were drawing on their experiences to formulate their responses. This highlights the benefit to candidates of being able to undertake inspections of a variety of premises with experienced colleagues and assess labelling in their exam preparation.

Candidates who did less well lacked clarity in their answers, missing key elements and being less able to explain reasoning for their answers. This could be from lack of knowledge, practical experience and/or exam technique.

An oral exam is often a new experience for candidates so the opportunity to practice beforehand with a colleague is valuable to identify knowledge areas to work on and develop their verbal exam technique. This could build confidence as understandably some candidates were nervous, which can hinder performance.