Stage 5 Agriculture Technology

Deniliquin High School

Preamble - some pre-thinking

In order to optimise its relevance to Stage 5 students Agriculture Technology needs to be taught on an enterprise basis. It is important that in teaching it, however, that students are exposed to such things as agricultural and environmental science, management, plant and animal anatomy and physiology, soil science, digestion or plant breeding so that they recognize the interactive nature of farming. With this in mind, I asked the following questions before beginning the programmes:

- 1. What do I want to teach that isn't an enterprise as such? What could be included in the unit? Examples include:
 - Animal production: characteristics of intensive versus extensive, reproduction or nutrition.
 - Plant production: erosion, irrigation or reading keys
- 2. What are the important features of this enterprise? For example,
 - inputs, outputs, management practices
 - limitations to production
 - where the enterprise can be found and why
 - markets and marketing
 - quality assurance.
- 3. What practical skills are associated with this enterprise?
- 4. What experiences should the students be exposed to?
- 5. What technologies are important to this enterprise?

I then set up a template so that I was able to put these key ideas and concepts on paper before beginning the actual programme. An example is shown overleaf.

From this start, I then set about putting it into a logical order on my programme template and then worked out ways of presenting the concepts. These were of course supported by the practical skills and experiences I saw as important.



Key concepts

- breeds and uses in Australia
- classes of sheep
- · points of sheep
- distribution and why/limiting factors
- husbandry/health practices
- calendar of operations
- wool industry: features of production, product characteristics, processing, quality assurance and marketing
- · genetics and hybrid vigour
- mammalian reproduction
- value to economy (use MLA web site)

Practical experiences

- muster and move
- set up yards
- move sheep through yards
- draft sheep 3-way draft
- · catch and tip
- cetermine age by mouthing
- pick up lambs
- carry out marking duties
- tag sheep
- feed sheep
- check rams for joining 4 Ts
- crutch
- weigh
- condition score
- teach to lead
- read a chemical label

SHEEP AND WOOL

Technologies

- ultra sound for pregnancy testing or fat scoring
- chemical shearing

Experiences and excursions

- watch shearing
- · visit sale yards
- ultra sound ewes
- Al sheep
- sheep and wool show
- Melbourne show