



ACCREDITATION





FOR ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THIS HANDBOOK
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INTRODUCTION

The FARMAX Accreditation® allows participants to become recognised as having advanced skills in pastoral farm modelling and farm systems analysis by using FARMAX. The different subject areas covered within this course are ideal for all rural professionals.

There are three different levels of FARMAX Accreditation®: Bronze, Silver and Elite. Participants can complete up to any level of accreditation they choose, but they must be completed in the above order.

Once accreditation has been obtained, participants must complete the renewal examination for the highest level of accreditation they have achieved every two years in order to remain accredited, for example, if a participant has achieved Elite Accreditation, they will only need to complete the Elite renewal level.

More information on what each level of accreditation consists of is included further in this handbook.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the FARMAX Accreditation® is to develop and improve participants' FARMAX skills and knowledge. The learning is both theoretical and practical with the aim of building on biological and financial pastoral farm systems modelling. At the end of the course, participants should be able to make decisions, find solutions and develop scenarios to produce meaningful information and engage real-world scenarios in FARMAX.

PREREQUISITE CRITERIA

Participants must have a basic understanding of FARMAX and sound knowledge of New Zealand pastoral farming.

Participants who have not previously used FARMAX must have completed the FARMAX BASICS course either online or at a FARMAX workshop.

Eligibility to undertake this course will be determined by the FARMAX Training Coordinator.







BRONZE ACCREDITATION

Independently create a high quality biological pastoral farm systems model by using FARMAX. Information on the farm business to be modelled will be provided. Participants will be expected to accurately enter this information into FARMAX and to make suitable assumptions where needed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Following the completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Create a feasible biological pastoral farm model
2. Use the information at hand and overcome the missing pieces to develop the whole farm system
3. Make realistic assumptions based on information provided

RESOURCES

The FARMAX Textbook: Farm Systems Analysis & Monitoring can be used. This textbook contains all the information needed to complete this module.

ACTIVITIES

Create one long term biological pastoral farm model based on a farm story.

TOPICS

1. Model Properties
2. Understanding how the mode "Long Term" works in FARMAX
3. Land Attributes
 - a. Growth Rates
 - b. Cropping Systems
 - c. Nitrogen
4. Supplements
5. Enterprises

6. Mobs
 - a. Properties
 - b. Aging of young stock
 - c. Stock Rec Flows
 - d. Mating
 - e. Production Targets
7. Calibrating a model

ASSESSMENT

Create one long term biological pastoral farm model based on a farm story.

The activities set out in the assessment are designed to help achieve the learning outcomes of this module.

To pass, the participant must meet the following criteria:

1. Obtain at least 80% for the module; and
2. Submit completed work within 30 days of commencement

Participants who fail the above, have the opportunity to re-sit the assessment up to three times.

The assessment must be completed independently and must be all your own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. FARMAX retains the right to revoke Accreditation upon evidence that these rules are not complied with.

COMPLETION

Once the module has successfully been completed, the participant will be rewarded Bronze Accreditation. They will now have the option to continue up to the Silver Accreditation.



SILVER ACCREDITATION

This module will focus on the basic financial information in FARMAX and how it can be used to complete basic financial analysis.

Participants must have successfully completed Bronze Accreditation in order to undertake this module.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Following the completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Understand how the financial and physical aspects of FARMAX work together
2. Have a sound understanding of the financial capabilities of FARMAX and how to use this to interpret different aspects of a pastoral farm system

RESOURCES

The FARMAX Textbook: Farm Systems Analysis & Monitoring can be used from the previous module (Bronze). This textbook contains all the information needed to complete this module.

No outside information will need to be researched.

TOPICS

Financial databases KPI's and how to alter financial information in FARMAX

1. Financial Databases in FARMAX
2. How to apply different financial components to a FARMAX Model
3. Learn what financial reports are available in FARMAX

ASSESSMENT

There are two parts to this assessment:

1. Update financial information in the FARMAX Model from the previous Bronze Module
2. Complete an assessment on different FARMAX financial reports based on the changes made in the model

The activities set out in the assessment are designed to help achieve the learning outcomes of this module.

To pass, the participant must meet the following criteria:

1. Obtain at least 80% for the module; and
2. Submit completed work within 30 days of commencement

Participants who fail the above, have the opportunity to re-sit the assessment up to three times.

The assessment must be completed independently and must be all your own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. FARMAX retains the right to revoke Accreditation upon evidence that these rules are not complied with.

COMPLETION

Once the module has successfully been completed, the participant will be rewarded Silver Accreditation. They will now have the option to continue up to the Elite Accreditation.



ELITE ACCREDITATION

This module will focus on the ability to create different scenarios in FARMAX to come up with some practical options for the farm.

It will also test participants on their ability to present their findings in a professional report.

Participants must have successfully completed Silver Accreditation in order to undertake this module.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Following the completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Make decisions, find solutions and develop scenarios to produce meaningful information
2. Engage real-world scenarios in FARMAX that consider practical implications outside of FARMAX
3. Present alternative recommendations in a professional manner with sound justifications

RESOURCES

The FARMAX Textbook: Farm Systems Analysis & Monitoring can be used from the previous module (Bronze). This textbook contains all the information needed to complete this module.

A template will be provided to help guide to write the report part of the assessment.

No outside information will need to be researched.

TOPICS

1. How to create a scenario file in FARMAX
2. How to add files together in FARMAX in order to compare different scenarios
3. Write a professional looking report outlining recommendations to the client

ASSESSMENT

There are two parts to this assessment:

1. Two scenarios/recommendations created in FARMAX will need to be submitted
2. A report will need to be submitted at the same time as the two recommendation FARMAX Files which will support your recommendations to the farmer.

The report will be in a professional format and will outline the summary, changes investigated, recommendations, and any financial & physical implications for the farm.

The activities set out in the assessment are designed to help achieve the learning outcomes of this module.

To pass, the participant must meet the following criteria:

1. Obtain at least 80% for the module; and
2. Submit completed work within 30 days of commencement

Participants who fail the above, have the opportunity to re-sit the assessment up to three times.

The assessment must be completed independently and must be all your own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. FARMAX retains the right to revoke Accreditation upon evidence that these rules are not complied with.

COMPLETION

Once the module has successfully been completed, the participant will be rewarded the highest level of Elite Accreditation.



MARKING

The marking schedule can be found in each assessment or can be requested by email to the FARMAX Training Coordinator.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

At the end of each calendar year, there will be an independent module review which will be administered by FARMAX. We value in-depth comments about what worked well and suggestions for improvement so that we can adapt the modules for future participants.

The FARMAX Accreditation is subject to change at any time that FARMAX sees fit.

FARMAX END USER LICENCE AGREEMENT

In order to complete any of the modules for FARMAX Accreditation, participants will be required to use the software program FARMAX and therefore must accept the terms of this agreement.

A copy of this agreement can be found at:

www.farmax.co.nz.

For any questions, participants can contact FARMAX on 0800 FARMAX or support@farmax.co.nz.



This document was last edited on: 29/04/2015

