

Sector-wide training for five professions has been provided at the Köllitsch teaching and research farm since 1992. These professions are: farmer (F), livestock farmer (LF), agricultural worker (AW), fish farmer (FF), and agricultural technician (AT). The sector-wide training supplements the practical training at the training farm. The training courses are jointly specified by the trainees and the farm in the training contract. Modern livestock accommodation for cattle, pigs and sheep is provided for the training as well as training workshops, teaching units, and training rooms. A large field trials area of about 5 hectares is provided for agricultural engineering courses as well as an indoor training area and a wide range of agricultural machinery. There are weekly training courses for groups of 8–10 participants where trainees hone practical skills which cannot be adequately taught at the training farm.

The practical courses form part of the training and of the training syllabus according to the Berufsbildungsordnung (German vocational training regulations). Experienced trainers provide the training in a practically relevant and clear manner. The majority of the training period is spent doing hands-on training.

The course participants are accommodated in double bedrooms within the residential centre at the teaching and research farm. A range of sporting and recreational facilities are provided here (table tennis, billiards, volleyball, football, fitness room, PCs etc.).

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*Täglich für
ein gutes Leben.*

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Sector-wide training

Köllitsch teaching and research farm

Training courses in the 1st year

Repairs in agricultural businesses (F/LF/FF)

- materials, tools and machinery
- metalworking and woodworking
- carrying out simple repairs on agricultural machinery

Milk production/dairy training (F/LF)

- dairy systems and practical milking training
- udder health and raw milk quality
- automatic milking systems and damage rectification
- raw milk processing

Animal husbandry for cattle I (F/LF)

- rearing, feeding and treatment of cattle
- health assessments and livestock assessments
- rearing of calves and young cattle
- pasture rearing, rearing of suckler cows (only F/LF)
- dairy systems and practical milking training (only AW)

Animal husbandry for pigs I (F/LF)

- pig rearing and housing
- health assessments and livestock assessments, litter assessments
- handling and treatment of pigs
- feeding, marking and documentation

Simple maintenance (AT)

- metalworking
- operational and transport safety in relation to agricultural machinery
- carrying out of simple repairs

Tillage (AT)

- soil identification, soil conservation
- working with ploughs, cultivators, disk harrows
- seed bed preparation, power take-off-driven equipment

Soil fertilisation/manuring machinery and equipment (AT)

- principles of the application of organic and mineral fertilisers
- calculation of nutrient requirements, selection of fertilisers
- working with mineral fertiliser spreaders
- application of liquid manure and livestock manure



Training courses in the 2nd year

Agricultural engineering: root crop cultivation (F/AT)

- tillage equipment
- precision seed drills and potato planting machines
- cultivation implements, harvesting machinery

Basic welding course (F/LF/AT/FF)

- For fish farmers in the 1st year of training
- arc welding and autogenous welding equipment and accessories
- practical arc welding and flame cutting

Customer-focused communication and data management (F/AT)

- working with agricultural data management software
- drawing up, processing and documenting of digital work orders
- principles of communication and data security
- carrying out staff appraisal interviews and customer presentations

Cattle rearing procedures (LF)

- accessing, preparation and distribution of fodder
- use of compact tractors
- automatic feeding systems
- generation of renewable energy
- computer-assisted herd management for cattle

Agricultural engineering: fodder growing (F/LF/AT)

- tillage equipment
- drilling machines and precision seed drills
- cutting units/turning equipment/swathers
- forage harvesters/forage wagons/forage presses

Agricultural engineering: threshed crops (F/AT)

- drilling machines
- cereal and oilseed harvesting machinery and equipment
- management of harvests and losses
- straw gathering machinery and equipment

Repairs in agricultural businesses (AW)

- materials, tools and machinery
- metalworking and woodworking
- carrying out simple repairs on agricultural machinery

Animal husbandry for cattle (AW)

- rearing, feeding and treatment of cattle
- health assessments and livestock assessments
- rearing of calves and young cattle
- pasture rearing, rearing of suckler cows (only F/LF)
- dairy systems and practical milking training (only AW)

Training courses in the 3rd year

Animal husbandry for cattle II (F/LF)

- ration formulation/feeding success
- hoof trimming/animal handling
- fertility management
- animal assessment – especially body condition scoring (BCS)
- assessment of rearing methods/herd management

Animal husbandry for pigs II (F/LF)

- animal feed evaluation/ration formulation
- animal handling, animal assessment
- oestrus monitoring/artificial insemination/biotechnology
- assessment of types of livestock housing

Agricultural engineering: use of fertilisers and crop protection (F)

- principles of the application of organic and mineral fertilisers
- fertiliser spreaders/manure spreaders/slurry tankers
- identifying of disease symptoms and crop damage
- integrated plant protection
- selection and use of pesticides
- crop protection equipment

Crop protection machinery and equipment (AT)

- crop evaluations, use of pesticides
- integrated plant protection, selection of pesticides
- crop protection technology, precision farming
- documentation, data management