

Basis Foundation Award in Agriculture

Mid Kent Training

2025 dates

Kent Foundation Course duration:

The course duration is equivalent to six days, spread over the calendar year so that various crops can be seen at different growth stages. Participatory training techniques are used throughout. The sessions will be held both indoors and outdoors with visits to local fields for practical crop walking sessions.

Course dates 2025:

- Wednesday 12 March -General cropping agronomy
- Wednesday 9 April- Weed ID and control
- Wednesday 7 May – Pest ID and control, legislation
- Wednesday 4 June - Disease ID and control, legislation
- Wednesday 22 October - Crop nutrition and fertilisers
- Wednesday 5 November - (revision)
- Wednesday 12 November - Exam (on-line)

Course venue: Newbury House, Court Lodge Farm, Hinxhill, Ashford TN25 5NR

Instructor: Debbie Wedge, 07973 814805; Debbiewedge@cwetg.org

Course Times: 09.00 – 16.00

The examination is a written paper consisting of 40 multiple choice questions and three structured short answer questions. The minimum pass rate is 70%.

The course provides a sound introduction to agronomy, integrated crop protection and crop nutrition. The course is suitable for the following delegates:

- Preliminary course for delegates with some or limited crop experience and knowledge who are considering doing the Basis Certificate in Crop Protection (Agriculture or Vegetables) or for those who just want to have a recognised qualification in agronomy.
- Stand alone course for delegates who do not give agronomy or crop protection advice but require a level of understanding of crop agronomy appropriate for their work. This diverse

group includes some farm staff, quality assurance officers, machinery manufacturer personnel and others.

The qualification, awarded to those successful in the examination, would be of particular value to those whom this may be the end point in agronomy training. It would also encourage those considering progression to other courses such as the Basis Certificate in Crop Protection and Facts.

Crop Production:

For each of the major UK crops (cereals, oilseed rape, peas, beans, potatoes, sugar beet and grassland) the following apply:

Weeds:

Ability to recognise the most important grass and broad-leaved species and have a basic understanding of the biology, importance and integrated control of weeds.

Pests:

Ability to recognise the main pest and beneficial animal types and have a basic understanding of the biology, importance and integrated control of pests.

Diseases:

Ability to recognise the main types of crop diseases and have a basic understanding of the biology, importance and integrated control of plant pathogens.

Soil and crop nutrition:

Ability to recognise the main soil types and have a basic understanding of soil texture, soil structure, pH and plant nutrition.

Plant protection chemicals and fertiliser products;

Ability to explain the way in which plant protection and fertiliser products are categorised, and to demonstrate some understanding of the practical importance of the chemical and physical properties of products.

Protecting people, animals and the environment:

Ability to explain the best practices employed by operators, farmers, advisors and product manufacturers to keep people, animals and the environment safe.

Application of plant protection products and fertilisers:

Ability to state the key issues in effective and responsible use of plant protection products and fertilisers.