Agricultural Health and Medicine HMF701

HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine is a unit of study offered by the School of Medicine at Deakin University. It aims to develop leaders in rural and agricultural health, to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of rural and remote agricultural communities .

It is well documented that agricultural workers, their families and communities face poorer health outcomes than their urban counterparts, experiencing higher incidences of injury, illness and work-related fatalities than most other industries. Further compounding this unhealthy 'life on the land' is an ageing workforce required to work harder and smarter for longer in a time of climate instability, increasing corporatisation, global food insecurity and ever tightening financial pressures. This unit addresses the underlying causes of injury and illness in agriculture and highlights the importance of healthy farming families and communities for the productivity and sustainability of the industry.

Unit information

Offered through the National Centre for Farmer Health and Deakin University's School of Medicine in **Trimester 1, 2022**, this unit will be delivered in residential mode as a five-day intensive program from **28 February - 4 March 2022 at Western District Health Service, Hamilton, Western Victoria**. Assessment and tutoring will be completed off campus over the remainder of the trimester using CloudDeakin. Student places in this unit are strictly limited to 25.

See **www.farmerhealth.org.au** for further details.

Why study this unit?

Without doubt, the most important aspect of a productive agricultural industry is a healthy workforce. During this unit you will learn about the poor health on the 'other side of the fence' and its impact on agribusiness, agricultural production and sustainability. You will increase your understanding of the social, environmental, physical and mental health factors that result in higher rates of injury, illness and death in rural and remote communities. This information will be beneficial to professionals looking to make a difference to health care provision, research, policy and literacy in rural and remote communities.

Career opportunities and professional accreditation

This unit opens possibilities in a variety of exciting career paths by providing students with a strong foundation in agricultural health, wellbeing and safety. It is accredited to offer continuing education and professional development points through a number of professional colleges and associations, including the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Australian Association of Social Workers and the Australian Veterinary Association. HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine can be taken as an elective unit (worth 1 credit point) toward a postgraduate qualification at Deakin University and is a core unit of the Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine. The unit is also a requirement for recognition as a health provider by AgriSafe™ Australia.

Who can study this unit?

HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine is a core unit of the Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine, an elective in a number of Deakin's postgraduate courses and can be taken as a single unit (non-award study). This unit includes a five-day intensive study period and has been developed to appeal to multidisciplinary, graduate level students and professionals from nursing, medicine, health, agricultural science, agribusiness, psychologists, social work,veterinary and environmental science backgrounds. By undertaking this unit, rural and health care professionals, health care administrators and policy makers will greatly enhance their knowledge of the physical and mental health issues facing today's rural and remote communities. Upon successful completion of the unit, graduates with a relevant health degree will be eligible to become an AgriSafe™ provider.

deakin.edu.au/course/graduate-certificate-agricultural-health-and-medicine

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B

‘Whether we are encouraging a farmer to look after his or her health through health assessments, or chatting about the everyday stresses of farming, we feel like we’re making a difference to the people in our area.’

Jack and Lisa Wieske, Western Australia
Agricultural Health and Medicine graduates

Study areas

The five-day intensive curriculum will cover the following topics:

- agricultural medicine conditions and co-morbidities
- high risk remote populations and chronic disease
- agricultural respiratory health
- occupational health assessments
- vision and hearing injuries
- common cancers in agriculture
- traumatic agricultural injury
- remote emergency medicine
- addiction, suicide and mental illness in rural Australia
- pesticide and veterinary chemical hazards
- musculoskeletal health and ageing
- work health & safety
- zoonotic diseases

A better understanding of these agricultural health, wellbeing and safety issues will help improve the health outcomes of farming men, women, children and agricultural workers.

What you’ll get out of it

At the end of this unit you will be able to:

• describe the clinical factors contributing to poor physical and mental health outcomes in the agricultural workforce

• comment on the social, economic and health service constraints experienced in farming communities and how these influence physical and mental health

• discuss the occupational health and safety risks associated with agricultural communities

• consider rural health, wellbeing and safety interventions including health promotion, primary care models and the Hamilton Charter for Farmer Health

• critically evaluate the agricultural health and medicine literature

• use online communication technologies to investigate and address agricultural and rural health problems

• develop skills to implement this new knowledge in your current or future professional life.

Unit fees

HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine is a full-fee unit offered through the School of Medicine at Deakin University. For more information on tuition fees, visit **deakin.edu.au/courses/unit?unit=HMF701**.

Admission requirements

This unit has no prerequisites. It is available to all postgraduate-level students or interested professionals from agricultural, education, policy or health backgrounds.

How to apply

Applications for this unit can be made through Deakin University’s online application portal **deakin.edu.au/apply** or via mail through the Unit Chair. If you would like further information about this unit or the application process, please visit **www.farmerhealth.org.au** or contact the Unit Chair.

The 2017 Agricultural Health and Medicine cohort

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deakin.edu.au/course/graduate-certificate-agricultural-health-and-medicine

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH in partnership with wdhs Western District Health Service DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

While the information provided here was correct at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of the course and unit offerings. Printed July 2018.