

Animal health and welfare

As the Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries, Lantra supports employers in developing a highly skilled workforce capable of competing in today's local and global economy. Leading the drive to boost skills and workforce development, Lantra aims to improve productivity, business performance and reduce skills gaps across the sector by continuously enhancing the quality and availability of training.

Lantra improves access to learning and development through a range of solutions that are designed specifically for industry.

- The Equine Skills CV, developed in partnership with the British Grooms Association, records skills achievement for grooms at four different levels and has been taken up as far afield as Germany, America and Australia. There are now over 160 registered users.
- In its first year Business Forward*, sector-specific support in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, has helped more than 600 individuals and businesses to receive skills analyses and bespoke training; such as a pet bereavement workshop and Level 2 team leading qualifications for veterinary nurses.
- Lantra CourseFinder is an online database, offering easy access to over 8500 courses from over 880 providers. During the last year, pages of Lantra CourseFinder were viewed over 160,000 times.
- The National Student Database is designed to help ensure students at land-based colleges are work-ready. More than 1000 students at four colleges in England are using the system.

Lantra continues to influence government and agencies by:

- Launching Lantra's unique research work such as A Skills Assessment for the Environmental and Land-based sector, setting out the key facts and skills data to inform the sector.
- Undertaking bespoke research such as an investigative study of equine paraprofessionals, a survey of issues around veterinary nursing recruitment and research with further and higher education students and lecturers in animal care to explore awareness and perceptions of animal technology and career opportunities within the industry. Research into the equine industry is due to be reported in Spring 2010. Further research projects for animal care and veterinary nursing are planned in 2010.
- Supporting the Equine Health and Welfare Strategy by championing Aim 6 which covers education, skills and training. Through work with industry partners, we ensure that National Occupational Standards, qualifications and the apprenticeship frameworks, highlight the importance of health and welfare issues and promote the duty of care for all those working and volunteering with horses.
- Appointing the Chair for its new National Council for England to lead the development of Lantra's work in the nation.
- Completing discussions with the Learning and Skills Council to ensure that smaller full Level 2 qualifications are recognised.
- Using our network of 25 employer Skills Ambassadors who contributed to more than 50 events to raise the profile of the sector to ministers, MPs and the media.

* Funded by the European Social Fund



Industries in animal health and welfare

Animal care

Animal technology

Equine

Farriery

Veterinary nursing

Contact Lantra England
Lantra House
Stoneleigh Park
Nr Coventry
CV8 2 LG

Tel: 024 7669 6996
Fax: 024 7669 6732
Email: connect@lantra.co.uk



Developing appropriate qualifications and learning frameworks...

- Lantra, along with employers and employees regularly review apprenticeship frameworks. During 2009, the animal care apprenticeship was revised. This work ensures that apprentices undertaking the framework have the opportunity to gain the up-to-date skills needed for businesses to remain competitive. Reviews of apprenticeship frameworks for equine, veterinary nursing and farriery are due to be completed in 2010.
- Lantra worked with industry to develop more than 390 sector job role profiles across all the industries. These show job descriptions and highlight the competencies people will need in a particular role. Job role profiles can help to identify an employee's skills gaps, highlight suitable training and help new entrants identify career opportunities.
- It is important for National Occupational Standards to reflect latest working practices as these are the building blocks of future qualifications. In 2009 Lantra, with industry support, completed the amendments to six of the 40 Standards to bring them up-to-date. Standards have recently been updated for animal technology and farriery and equine and veterinary nursing are currently under review. Standards for equine barefoot care will be available in 2010.
- Units of learning have been developed as part of the new qualifications system – the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The QCF changes the way skills are recognised and accredited in all industries including animal care, animal technology and equine and enable “bite-sized” learning. These units are now available for awarding organisations to use for qualification development. Units are currently being developed for farriery and veterinary nursing.

Supporting new entrants into the sector...

- Lantra led on the development of the new Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies which is now part of the national curriculum. More than 100 education representatives, comprising animal care lecturers and Diploma teachers, attended an informative event in 2009, which was run giving the animal care industry an insight into the Diploma.
- In the last year Lantra, has attended nine careers events reaching more than 180,000 school children and adults. Hundreds of careers packs have been distributed to teachers and career practitioners.
- A Learning and Skills Council supported careers DVD developed in the Eastern region featured an equine stud hand, equine veterinary nurse and a zoo keeper. Over 600 complimentary DVDs have been distributed to the region's schools.



www.lantra.co.uk
Telephone: 024 7669 6996

© Lantra April 2009 PLBSSC512C Registered no: 2823181 Charity no: 1022991 Registered Office: Lantra, Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Coventry, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Making the difference...

England facts and figures

179,600 approx. businesses in the environmental and land-based sector, 97% employing less than ten people.*

32,900 of these businesses are in animal health and welfare industries, employing an estimated 136,900 people.*

47% of sector vacancies are hard-to-fill. Employers say they cause 'increased workload for other staff' and 'increased operational costs'.**

29% of sector vacancies, compared to 21% across all sectors, are due to skills shortages.**

In 2006/07 18% of the total volunteers within England participated within the animal care and environmental conservation industries.***

* Source: Lantra 'Skills Assessment' 2009 with equine figures from Experian research commissioned by Lantra 2010

** Source: LSC 'National Employer Skills Survey' 2007

*** Source: Lantra 'Volunteer Skills Research' 2008

Annette Chinn, Dogs Trust

“IF YOU HAVE CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT STAFF IT MEANS ALL YOUR OPERATING PROCEDURES ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO A HIGHER LEVEL. PEOPLE APPROACH THEIR TASKS WITH MORE UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE, MORE DIRECTLY, MORE EFFICIENTLY, WHICH ULTIMATELY SAVES MONEY.”