

Farm Business Management: The Fundamentals of Good Practice

Chapter 11: Anticipation Skills (Answers)

1. The diagram reinforces an understanding of all the tasks and their sequencing. Critical path analysis (CPA) shows the set of connected tasks that determines the final completion date. That is, the path of sequenced tasks that takes the longest time of all paths.
2. A range of possibilities exist depending on the type of cropping. For example, where major changes to the crops and systems used are proposed, CPA might be used to assess the harvesting process and determine where the bottlenecks might occur, but several scenarios would need modelling to allow for some of the uncertainty. An awareness of the bottlenecks would allow resource rearrangement. For existing well-used systems, experience would have shown the bottlenecks.

Also, of course, where major building projects are planned (e.g. introducing major storage and drying systems), CPA can help ensure timely completion through identifying the critical path, which might then be shortened with resource rearrangement.