

Fall Semester 2016

ANS 4932 Dairy Farm Evaluation

Wednesdays, 2:00 – 6:00 PM Dairy Science Room 201

Course credits

Three credits will be given for successful completion of this course. Along with this course, students will possibly have the opportunity to participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge in November and the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in April, if they so desire.

Course Instructor: Dr. Mary Sowerby

Email: meso@ufl.edu

Phone: 386-362-2771 (office) or 865-250-7761 (cell)

Address: Suwannee County Extension Office, 1302 11th Street, Live Oak, FL.

Due to an off-campus office, please call or email to make an appointment for a mutually convenient on-campus meeting time and place. Feel free to call or text my cell phone if I am not in my office. Several guest lecturers will participate in the class. There will be at least three farm visits during class and one Saturday farm tour.

Course Description

Dairy Farm Evaluation is designed to enable students to evaluate the management of finances, health, reproduction, feeding, housing, milking, manure handling and raising heifer replacements on dairy farms. By the final project, students should be able to present a well-organized summary for improving a herd's weaknesses and optimizing any opportunities. This class is not only a dairy management course, but also training for the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. Students interested in becoming University of Florida Dairy Challenge team members should take this class.

Prerequisite

None, although ANS 3251 Biology and Management of Dairy Cattle and ANS 3250L Dairy Cattle Practicum are highly recommended.

Course Goals

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Walk on a dairy farm, appraise its calf raising, milking, herd health, nutrition and reproduction programs, facilities, finances, record keeping, and employee relations, then make a concise analysis of strengths and weaknesses.
- With team members, present a PowerPoint which critiques a farm's strengths and weaknesses, in addition to making economically rational suggestions for improvement.
- Potentially become Regional and/or North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge team members.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is expected and contributes to the final grade. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Recognizing that the Dairy Science Building is far from main campus, class will begin at 2 PM rather than 1:55.

Student Email

Students are responsible for checking their Gatorlink email daily.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Text

There is no text book for the course. There will be many handouts.

Grading

Grading (A through E) will be based on attendance (10%); participation and follow-through on out-of-class assignments (10%); active team collaboration and presentations (30%); Farm Evaluation Notebook (35%); and final exam (15%).

Grading scale:

A	91-100%
A-	89-90%
B+	86-88%
B	81-85%
B-	79-80%
C+	76-78%
C	71-75%
C-	69-70%
D+	66-68%
D	61-65%
D-	59-60%
E	<59%

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Farm Evaluation Notebook

Each student is required to assemble a notebook (worth 35% of final grade) composed of at least five (5) articles (from at least two (2) different sources) in each of the following categories (plan to preliminarily turn in those 5 on the dates noted on the class schedule):

- Farm walks (these articles will be given to you, although you are encouraged to also find your own)
- Dairy Facilities
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Genetics
- Lactation (milk production) – milking equipment, parlors, mastitis, etc.
- Dairy Record Keeping (PCDART or DairyComp, etc.) – (this information will be given to you, but again, add your own if you find articles)
- Herd Health

- Calf and Heifer Care
- Farm Finances
- Labor Management
- Manure Management
- Miscellaneous for anything you find interesting, but have no related tab

Articles can come from any of the following sources:

1. Popular press (Hoard's Dairyman or Dairy Herd Management, etc.)
2. DAIReXNET
3. Land Grant University's dairy newsletters and articles (i.e. UF Dairy EDIS publications)
4. S-Pac (American Dairy Science Association archived collection of conference proceedings)
5. Journal of Dairy Science and other refereed journals

In addition to the five articles you find for the notebook, please place class handouts behind the appropriate tab.

Farm Evaluation Notebook presentation

Students who do not participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge are required to give an 8 to 12 minute PowerPoint presentation on a Journal of Dairy Science article included in their notebook (or substitute article/topic approved by the instructor). This presentation should include introduction, objectives, materials and methods, results, and conclusion about the article's topic. This is an optional activity for class members who participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge for added presentation practice and/or preparation for giving a presentation at Southern and/or National American Dairy Science Association meetings.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or

three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Campus Helping Resources

- Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *Health and Wellness*

- U Matter, We Care

- If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

- Counseling and Wellness Center

- <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

- University Police Department

- 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

- <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support

- 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

- Career Resource Center

- Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

- Library Support

- <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

ANS4905 – Dairy Farm Evaluation - 2:00 – 6:00 pm
2016 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Aug. 24	Intro to Dairy Farm Evaluation – Begin with the End in Mind/Lactation (Milk Production)
2	Aug. 31	Walking a Dairy Farm – Herd Health & Reproduction <i>Notebook articles on lactation/milk production topics (mastitis, milking equipment, etc.) due</i>
3	Sept. 7	Tour UF Dairy Unit –Tour UF Dairy Unit/Milking Systems/Cow Comfort/Facilities. <i>Notebook articles on dairy herd health topics due</i>
4	Sept. 14	Introduction to dairy nutrition and NRC (National Research Council Requirements), Penn State Shaker box <i>Notebook articles about dairy facilities due</i>
5	Sept. 21	Farm Visit #1 <i>Notebook articles on dairy nutrition topics due</i>
6	Sept. 28	Team Presentation #1 Calf and Heifer Raising <i>Notebook articles on dairy reproduction topics due</i>
7	Oct. 5	Intro to PC Dart <i>Notebook articles on calf and heifer raising due</i>
8	Oct. 12	Farm Visit # 2 <i>Notebook articles on farm manure management topics due</i>
9	Oct. 19	Team Presentation # 2 Lactation <i>Notebook articles on labor relations due</i>
10	Oct. 26	Farm Finances/Labor relations <i>Notebook articles on dairy genetics due</i>
11	Nov. 2	Farm Visit #3 <i>Notebook articles on farm finance topics due</i>
12	Nov. 9	Team Presentations #3 / Genetics
	Nov. 13-15	Southern Regional Dairy Challenge, Lake Blackshear, GA
13	Nov. 16	Personal Presentations of those not attending Southern Dairy Challenge
14	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving break
15	Nov. 30	Wrap-up
16	Dec. 7	Final Exam

*** **Potential Saturday dates: Sept. 17, Oct. 8, Oct. 15, Oct. 22**