

Fall Semester 2015

## **ANS 4932 Dairy Farm Evaluation**

Wednesdays, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Dairy Science Room 201

### **Course credits:**

Three credits will be given for successful completion of this course. Along with this course, students will have the opportunity to participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge in Abbingdon, VA, November 15-17, 2015, and possibly the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in Syracuse, NY, April 7-9, 2016, if they so desire.

### **Course Instructor: Dr. Mary Sowerby**

Email: [meso@ufl.edu](mailto:meso@ufl.edu) Phone: 386-362-2771 (office) or 865-250-7761 (cell)

Office hours will be when mutually convenient. (Please call or email to make an appointment. Unfortunately my office is off campus.) 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, 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**

To give students the informational background and presentation experience to make formal analyses of dairy farms. In addition, working with teammates will be practiced to give interested class members training to compete in Southern Regional and North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge competitions.

### **Class Attendance**

Class attendance is expected and contributes to the final grade.

### **Student Email**

Students are responsible for checking their Gatorlink email daily.

## **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, follow-through on out-of-class assignments, active team collaboration and presentations (40%); 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**

In 1995 the UF student body enacted an honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. **The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."** Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. (See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code> for more information regarding the Student Honor Code). It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

### **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.

## 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.
- *University Counseling & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)
  - Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Training Programs, Community Provider Database.
- *Career Resource Center*, First Floor JWRU, 352-392-1602, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)

## Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

- *Disability Resource Center*, 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) .

## Online Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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/>.

## ANS4905 – Dairy Farm Evaluation - 2:00 – 6:00 pm

### 2015 Course Schedule:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>1</b>	Aug. 26	Intro to Dairy Farm Evaluation – Begin with the End in Mind (Dr. Mary Sowerby)
<b>2</b>	Sept. 2	Walking a Dairy Farm – Herd Health & Reproduction (Dr. Jose Santos) <i>Notebook articles on manure management due</i>
<b>3</b>	Sept. 9	Tour UF Dairy Unit –Real farm walk; Facilities, Cooling, Body Condition Scoring. (Dave Bray) <i>Notebook articles on dairy herd health topics due</i>
<b>4</b>	Sept. 16	Introduction to dairy nutrition and NRC (National Research Council Requirements), Penn State Shaker box (Dr. Charlie Staples) <i>Notebook articles about dairy facilities due</i>
<b>5</b>	Sept. 23	Farm Visit #1 <i>Notebook articles on dairy nutrition topics due</i>
<b>6</b>	Sept. 30	Team Presentation #1 Lactation (Dr. Jimena Laporta) <i>Notebook articles on dairy reproduction topics due</i>
<b>7</b>	Oct. 7	Intro to Dairy Comp <i>Notebook articles on lactation/milk production topics (mastitis, milking equipment, etc.) due.</i>
<b>8</b>	Oct. 14	Farm Visit # 2 <i>Notebook articles on genetics (sire evaluations, genomics, etc.) due</i>
<b>9</b>	Oct. 21	Team Presentation # 2 Calf and heifer raising (Dr. Myriam Jimenez) <i>Notebook articles on labor relations due</i>
<b>10</b>	Oct. 28	Farm Finances (Dr. Albert de Vries)/Labor relations (Dave Bray)/Genetics (Dr. Mary Sowerby) <i>Notebook articles on calf and heifer raising due</i>
<b>11</b>	Nov. 4	Farm Visit #3 <i>Notebook articles on farm finance topics due</i>
<b>12</b>	Nov. 11	Holiday (Veterans' Day)
<b>13</b>	Nov. 15-17	Southern Regional Dairy Challenge, Abbingdon, VA
<b>14</b>	Nov. 18	Team Presentation #3 (optional day off if presentation made prior to Southern Dairy Challenge)
<b>15</b>	Nov. 25	Holiday (Thanksgiving)
<b>16</b>	Dec. 2	Personal presentation day
<b>17</b>	Dec. 9	Final exam; Notebooks due

**\*\*\* Potential Saturday dates: Sept. 19, Oct. 10, Oct. 17, Oct. 24**