

Course Syllabus

ANS 4932/ ANS 6255L- Dairy Farm Evaluation

Monday 6th period (12:50 – 1:40 PM) - Classroom 201
Thursday LAB 4-6th period (10:40- 01:40 PM)- Dairy Unit or TBA

2 Credits

Instructor

Dr. Izabella Toledo.
Office : room 204F, Dairy Science Building.
Email: through e-Learning.only
Office hours : Monday (11 :50AM - 12 :50PM)

The instructor decides in all cases not covered in this syllabus. Guest instructors may present some of the material.



Course Description

Enables students to learn the basics about dairy farm evaluation. We will evaluate all aspects of a dairy farm including farm financials, management, health, reproduction, nutrition and feeding, facilities, and milking. Throughout the course, the students should be able to analyze, present and discuss case studies, and by the end of the course, students should be able to present a summary of a dairy farm's weaknesses and be able to present opportunities for improvement with a budget.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Summarize and describe the fundamentals of evaluating dairy farm performance.
- Critique important concepts of dairy cattle management, including facilities, nutrition, lactation, genetics, and economics.
- Retrieve, analyze and interpret data from the Dairy Comp software.
- Propose budgets and management changes to improve dairy systems.

Risks

On Wednesdays, students will visit the UF Dairy Unit or commercial farms. We will transport students from the Animal Sciences Building to the Dairy Unit and to farm visits. Students are allowed to drive their own vehicles to the Dairy Unit but not to commercial farm visits. The drive to the farm will take on average 1 hour total to go and come back. To effectively evaluate the farms, we will walk behind the cows and heifers in their manure. Students may get dirty and should bring rubber boots. Plastic boots will not be provided except for farm visits.

Risk Associated with the Use of Livestock. Working with livestock is inherently risky. Many of these animals are capable of injuring people, especially when they are in the flight or fight mode inspired by a stressful situation. The instructors will work to provide students with the ability to manage livestock with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and animals.

Class Attendance

This is a hands-on class, and your physical participation is important for learning. Requirements for class attendance and make-up work, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Class attendance from start to finish each week is required. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. Every student is allowed one unexcused class absence. If a student misses (part of) a class, either excused or unexcused, it is the responsibility of the student to catch up on the material covered. Talk with your classmates or find the handouts on the course website. Use of cell phones is not allowed during class time without permission. These policies are in place to make learning as successful and pleasant as possible for everyone. Exceptions to these rules are unlikely granted and should not be expected.

Course Website and Communication

The course website is through <http://elearning.ufl.edu>. We will use the website primarily to post materials and announcements. Canvas should be used for all electronic communication between students and instructors.

Required Reading Materials

No textbook is assigned for this course. The following UF/EDIS articles are required.

De Vries, A, H. Dechassa and H. Hogeveen. 2018. *Economic evaluation of dairy cow stocking density*. EDIS Publication #AN346. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN346>

Ferreira, F., G. E. Dahl, & A. De Vries. 2018. *Economic feasibility of cooling dry cows: Findings and spreadsheet*. Univ. Fl. EDIS Publication #AN342. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN342>

Casarotto L.T., J. Laporta and G. E. Dahl. 2021. *Financial impacts of late-gestation heat stress on cow and offspring lifetime performance*. Univ. Fl. EDIS Publication #AN374. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN374>

Dado-Senn B., G. E. Dahl and J. Laporta. 2019. *How are cows cooled on dairy farms in Florida?* Univ. Fl. EDIS Publication #AN355. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN355>

Toledo I. and G. E. Dahl. 2019. *Recognizing heat stress in dairy cows*. Univ. Fl. EDIS Publication #AN356. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN356>

Toledo I. 2022. *Are cows comfortable in modern dairy facilities?* Univ. Fl. EDIS Publication #AN349. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN349>

Lectures Schedule- Fall 2025

Mondays (lectures- period 6- 12:50-1:40pm) and Thursdays (Lab- period 4-6- 10:40-01:40pm).

Week 1

August 21

- Introductions, syllabus and Q&A- Zoom

Week 2

August 25

- Dairy farm evaluation: Overall view of dairy farm operations

August 28

- Dairy cow facilities
- Visit to the Dairy Unit: facilities observation and evaluation.

Week 3

September 1

- **No Class- Labor Day**

September 4

- **Case study 1 assignment**
- Visit to the Dairy Unit: BCS and lameness evaluation and scoring.

Week 4

September 8

- **Case study 1 presentation**

September 11- Dr. De Vries

- Introduction to evaluation of farm financials/Partial budget*
- Partial budget hands-on practice

Week 5

September 15

- Introduction to Dairy Comp: key performance indicators- De Vries

September 18- Dr. De Vries

- Dairy comp hands-on practice- De Vries
- **Case study 2 assignment**

Week 6

September 22

- **Case study 2 presentation**

September 25- Guest lecture Melanie Herman

- Reproduction protocols and key performance indicators
- Evaluating reproduction on DairyComp: genetics and the use of beef semen to breed dairy cows.

Week 7

September 29

- Milk production, milking parlor, milking equipment, milking procedures, SCC and mastitis

October 2

- Visit to the Dairy Unit: Milking Parlor
- **Case study 3 assignment**

Week 8

October 6

- **Case study 3 presentation**

October 9

- Labor efficiency

Week 9

October 13- Guest Lecture- Diwakar

- Nutrition

October 16

- Visit to the Dairy Unit: Nutrition Lab

Week 10

October 20- Dr. De Vries

- Genetics and heifer replacement

October 23

- Genetics of dairy cattle- analyzing records

Week 11

October 27

- Projects discussion

October 30- Dr. De Vries

- Review partial budget/ Dairy comp performance indicators

Week 12

November 3

- Visit to a commercial dairy farm.

November 6

- **Graduate students' individual projects presentations**

Week 13

November 10

- **Group project presentations**

November 13

- Dairy Conference Road Show- Tifton, GA

Week 14

No class -Thanksgiving

*Guest Lecturer

**Schedule subject to change.

Important dates

- August 21 First day of class
- September 8 Case study 1 presentation
- September 22 Case study 2 presentation
- October 6 Case study 3 presentation
- November 3 Commercial dairy farm visit and evaluation
- November 6 Graduate student presentation
- November 10 Group project presentations

Grading

Students can earn a maximum of 300 pts.

Undergraduate Students:

- **3 Case Studies (150 – 50 points each):** Students will be teamed up to create a case study report on specific topics throughout the semester. Students will work together with their team (2 to 3 students) to evaluate a dairy farm on that specific unit and include pictures of farm, evidence from the data, and a partial budget to help backup the opportunities discovered for that specific unit.
- **Final Presentation (100 points):** Students will be asked to present a final farm evaluation project using information gathered from case studies/visit to the commercial dairy farm. This is a group project that is built over what is taught and observed over the entire semester.
- **Attendance (50 points)** - Lectures and Farm visits.

Graduate Students:

- **Case Studies (150- 50 points each):** Students will be teamed up to create a case study report based on the 4 units throughout the semester. Students will work together with their team (2 to 3 students) to evaluate a dairy farm on that specific topic and include pictures of farm, evidence from the data, and a partial budget to help backup the opportunities discovered for that specific unit.
- **Final Presentation(50 points):** Students will be asked to present a final farm evaluation project using information gathered from case studies/visit to the commercial dairy farm. This is a group project that is built over what is taught and observed over the entire semester.
- **Graduate Project (50 points):** Topics to be arranged. Students will be asked to develop a paper/project using information gathered during the course with scientific emphasis. This is an individual project that will be presented at the end of the semester.
- **Attendance (50 points)-** Lectures and Farm visits.

Grading Scale

A= 90.0-100% B= 80.0-89.9% C= 70.0-79.9% D= 60.0-69.9% E < 59.9%- Failure
H= Incomplete W= Withdraw

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulation/info/grades.aspx>

*Guidelines on scoring will be shared with students.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email, they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following 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." You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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." It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students at 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.

Services for 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. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & 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*
Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu
- *Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.*
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>

Additional information

Instructors may choose to clarify in their syllabus their teaching philosophy, expectations for classroom behavior, utilization of e-learning, and other information that will help students succeed in the course.