

Course syllabus 2026 (updated 1/6/2026)

ANS 3250L - Dairy Cattle Practicum

Class #10296

Friday, 8-10th period (3:00 to 6:00 PM), location: see schedule, 2 credits
Real times 3:00 to 6:30 PM due to heavy traffic.

Instructor

Dr. Albert De Vries, Room 104F in the Larson Dairy Science building. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday (the hour after ANS 3251), or when mutually convenient. Email only through E-learning. I will try to respond within 2 days, but I do not respond to email on the weekends. The instructor decides in all cases not covered in this syllabus.

Teaching Assistant

Sophia Beatriz Obeso. Office hours are the hour after class, or when mutually convenient. Email only through E-learning.

Course Description

Practical application of the principles of biology and management of dairy cattle. Topics include milking procedures, behavior, cattle handling, records, and computer applications in dairy production; body condition, lameness and hygiene scoring; dairy farm evaluation; on-farm practica and field trips.

Course Prerequisite

Coreq: ANS 3251 - Biology and Management of Dairy Cattle. Students must be concurrently enrolled in ANS 3251 or have successfully completed ANS 3251 earlier.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Appraise the behavior of dairy cattle through hands-on interactions with these animals.
- Score animal behavior, nutrition, reproduction, milking, genetics, and facilities of dairy cattle housed on a dairy farm.
- Evaluate and critique dairy cattle management on a dairy farm.

Risks

We will walk behind the animals in their manure. Students may get dirty and should bring rubber boots. Plastic boots will not be provided for everyone. We will be working with dairy young stock and cows, including touching, and moving. Working with livestock is inherently risky. Many of these animals are capable of (but not likely to) injuring people, especially when they are in the fight or flight 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. The University of Florida is not liable for illness or injuries to students participating in coursework per UF policy, students are

required to purchase the Student Health Insurance Plan or comparable coverage. See:
<https://healthcompliance.shcc.ufl.edu/>

We aim to provide a van to drive from Animal Sciences to the Dairy Unit. Students are welcome to drive their own vehicles to the Dairy Unit but may only park in the designated area. However, UF is not assuming any responsibility for accidents or damages to your vehicles associated with this practicum.

Class Attendance and Make-Up Work

This is a hands-on course, and your physical participation is important for learning. Class attendance from start to finish of each practicum is required. It is the student's responsibility to make sure the attendance sheet at the start of each class is signed. Notifications of missed signatures will be accepted until 11:59 PM of the day of the class. Every student is allowed to miss 1 class unexcused after the first week, except on days when tests are given, or when students give presentations. If a student misses (part of) a class, either excused or unexcused, the student is responsible for catching up on the material covered. Talk with your course mates or find the handouts on the course website. Use of cell phones is not allowed during class time unless we give you permission. These policies are in place to make learning as successful and pleasant as possible for everybody. Not attending class is also unfair to the students on the waiting list who would like to take this course. Exceptions to these rules are unlikely granted and should not be expected. But we are all human too. Relax 😊

Course Website and Communication

The course website is through <http://elearning.ufl.edu>. We will use the website primarily to post materials, grades, and for announcements. All electronic communication between students and instructors needs to occur through <http://elearning.ufl.edu> so we have a clear record of the emails.

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

No textbook is assigned. Materials will be posted on e-learning. All material presented in class is subject for grading. Students may be asked to complete assignments related to the labs.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

Course Grading Structure (100% maximum)

- 30% Class participation. Students need to sign-in at the start of each practicum. Participation means being engaged during the entire class period and turn assignments in on time and of satisfactory quality. Every practicum is worth the same number of points. Unsatisfactory

participation may result in a loss of points. An unexcused missed practicum results in a loss of 4% off the final class score (max 100%).

- 20% Final presentation: Teams of two students present on a topic of their choice. Details will be provided.
- 50% Tests: Three non-cumulative tests will be given with mostly short answer questions. Tests are closed book with no outside aids allowed. Make up tests are only given in exceptional cases to be decided by the instructor.
- Scores can be appealed within 1 week of returning the grade. We will regrade the whole test. Because grading in this course is naturally somewhat subjective, we will be reluctant to change scores. In past years, most students in this course obtained an A or A- grade.
- We will use the grade book in e-Learning to calculate final grades, if possible.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned based upon the following scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B+ = 85-89.9%
- B = 80-84.9%
- C+ = 75-79.9%
- C = 70-74.9%
- D+ = 65-69.9%
- D = 60-64.9%
- E = <60%

Standard Syllabus Statements

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF. Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

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.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas)

- [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)

ANS 3250L – Dairy Cattle Practicum – Friday 8-10th period (3:00 – 6:00 PM) – Spring 2026
 Real times 3:00 to 6:30 PM due to heavy traffic

The schedule may change during the semester. Check ELEARNING.UFL.EDU for the latest schedule.

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Location	Instructor
1	1/16	F	Introduction	155	De Vries
2	1/23	F	Walk through and herd flow	DRU	De Vries
3	1/30	F	Cow stockmanship	DRU	De Vries
4	2/6	F	BCS, hygiene, locomotion, lesions scoring	DRU	De Vries
5	2/13	F	Test 1 in class. Info about student presentations	155	De Vries
6	2/20	F	Feeding evaluation	DRU	De Vries
7	2/27	F	Insert CIDR, give shots, draw blood	DRU	Hansen
8	3/6	F	Facilities	DRU	De Vries
9	3/13	F	Farm visit	TBA	De Vries
10			<i>Spring Break, March 14-22</i>		
11	3/27	F	Test 2 in class. Modeling lab	155	De Vries
12	4/3	F	Health evaluation	DRU	De Vries
13	4/10	F	Student presentations	155	De Vries
14	4/17	F	Genetics, culling	DRU	De Vries
	TBA		Milking practicum	DRU	De Vries
Exam	4/30	Th	Test 3 in class (12:30 – 2:30 PM)	TBA	

Locations:

DRU: IFAS Dairy Research Unit, van leaves Animal Science building at 3 PM

155: classroom 155 in the Animal Science building

TBA: to be announced

Ride: van leaves from the parking lot in front of the Animal Science building at 3 PM