

ANS 4932 – Dairy Farm Evaluation (Class Number: 10563)

Friday, 7-9th period (1:55 to 4:55 PM), classroom 201 (Larson Bldg.) or TBA, 1 credit

Real times 2:00 to 6:30 PM on some days due to heavy traffic

Course Description

Dairy Farm Evaluation is designed to enable students to learn to the basics of dairy farm evaluation. We will evaluate the management of finances, health, reproduction, feeding, housing, milking, manure handling and raising heifer replacements on dairy farms. 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 some opportunities for improvement. This class is not only a dairy management course, but also training for the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge event. Students interested in becoming University of Florida Dairy Challenge team members should take this class. For Dairy Challenge, see <http://www.dairychallenge.org/> and <https://www.amicor.com/blog/a-video-that-answers-why-you-should-care-about-the-dairy-challenge>

Prerequisite

None, although some knowledge about dairy cattle will be helpful. ANS 3251 Biology and Management of Dairy Cattle and ANS 3250L Dairy Cattle Practicum are highly recommended.

Course Goals and Risks

Students will develop a hands-on understanding of the fundamentals of evaluating dairy farm performance. We will walk behind the cows in their manure. Students may get dirty and should bring rubber boots. Plastic boots will not be provided for everyone, except for farm visits.

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 (but not likely to) of 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. Students are required to complete Dairy Cattle Safety (ANS801 in MyUFL training) in the first week of class. The University of Florida is not liable for illness or injuries to students participating in coursework per University policy, students are required to purchase the Student Health Insurance Plan or comparable coverage. See: <http://healthcompliance.shcc.ufl.edu/insurance>

We will provide a van to drive from Animal Sciences to the Dairy Unit and to farm visits. Students are allowed to drive their own vehicles to the Dairy Unit but not to the farm visits. However, UF is not assuming any responsibility for accidents or damages to your vehicles associated with this course.

Instructors

Dr. Albert De Vries. Professor. Office is room 104F in the Dairy Science building. Office hours are when mutually convenient. Office phone number (352) 294-6983 or cell number (352) 474-3412. Email devries@ufl.edu

Dr. Izabella Toledo. UF/IFAS Northeast Dairy Extension. Phone: (352) 284-9395. Email izatul@ufl.edu

When the course has started, all email communication with the instructors must go through the course website on <http://elearning.ufl.edu>. The instructors decide in all cases not covered in this syllabus.

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 start of each class. Every student is allowed to miss 1 class unexcused. 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. 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 for announcements. All electronic communication between students and instructors needs to occur through <http://elearning.ufl.edu>.

Text and Material Covered

No text is assigned. Students may be asked to read assigned readings and turn in assignments.

Grading

- 50% Class participation and assignments. 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 10 points. Unsatisfactory participation or unsatisfactory assignment may result in a loss of points. An unexcused missed practicum results in 0 points.
- 10% Team presentation: Students are asked to present a farm evaluation in class. Details will be provided.
- 40% Exam: One exam will be given with short answer questions.
- For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Grading Scale

A	≥93%	C	≥73% <77%
A-	≥90% <93%	C-	≥70% <73%
B+	≥87% <90%	D+	≥67% <70%
B	≥83% <87%	D	≥63% <67%
B-	≥80% <83%	D-	≥60% <63%
C+	≥77% <80%	E	<60%

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. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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 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 & 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/
 - Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Training Programs, Community Provider Database.
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 352-392-1601, 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. 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. Information: 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

ANS 4932 – Dairy Herd Evaluation – Friday 7-9th period (1:55 – 4:55 PM) – Fall 2019

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Location	Instructor
1	9/27	F	Introduction to dairy farm evaluation	201	De Vries/Toledo
2	10/4	F	<i>Homecoming – no class</i>		
3	10/11	F	Observing dairy farm performance I	DU	De Vries/Toledo
4	10/18	F	Key performance indicators and benchmarks	201	De Vries/Toledo
5	10/25	F	Observing dairy farm performance II	Visit	De Vries/Toledo
6	11/1	F	Putting farm observations in context	201	De Vries/Toledo
7	11/8	F	Observing dairy farm performance III	Visit	De Vries/Toledo
8	11/15	F	Presenting farm evaluations	201	De Vries/Toledo
9	11/21 11/23	T,F, S	Southern Regional Dairy Challenge (optional)	Kentucky	De Vries/Toledo
	TBA	W	Exam	TBA	De Vries

Locations:

201: Classroom 201, Dairy Science building

DU: IFAS Dairy Unit, van leaves Dairy Science building at 2 PM

Visit: Dairy farm visit, van leaves Dairy Science building at 2 PM