

## Course Syllabus Fall 2021

### **ANS 4605 – Animal and Products Evaluation: Dairy Farm Evaluation – 1 credit**

**Instructors:** Dr. Albert De Vries and Dr. Izabella Toledo

Meeting dates are **September 29<sup>th</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup>** (part of the semester only). Wednesday, 6-8<sup>th</sup> period (12:50 to 3:50 PM), classroom 155, at Dairy Unit, or TBA. **Real times 12:50 to ~4:30 PM on some days due to heavy traffic and travel to farms.**

#### **Course Description**

Dairy Farm Evaluation is designed to enable students to learn the basics of dairy farm evaluation. We will evaluate the management of health, reproduction, feeding, housing, milking, 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 including a budget. This class is not only a dairy management course, but also training for the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge event planned to be held in Stephenville, Texas, in November 2021. See <http://www.dairychallenge.org/>. Participation in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge is optional and does not affect your final grade.

#### **Prerequisite**

We expect that the student has taken ANS 3006 Introduction to Animal Science in order to have some familiarity with the dairy industry. It is preferable (but not required) that the student is a member of the UF dairy science club or has some previous dairy experience or has taken ANS 3251 Biology and Management of Dairy Cattle. Contact an instructor if you are uncertain if this class is a good fit for you. We do not assume much basic dairy knowledge, but the class is fast paced.

#### **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 and heifers 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 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 University policy.

We will provide a van to drive 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 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 100C in the Animal Science building. Office hours when mutually convenient. You are welcome when my door is open. Office phone number (352) 294-6983 or cell number (352) 474-3412. Email [devries@ufl.edu](mailto:devries@ufl.edu)

Dr. Izabella Toledo. UF/IFAS Northeast Dairy Extension Agent. Office hours when mutually convenient. Office Phone: (352) 284-9395. Email [izatol@ufl.edu](mailto:izatol@ufl.edu)

When the course has started, all email communication with the instructors must go through the course website on <http://elearning.ufl.edu>, otherwise your email may get lost. The instructors decide in all cases not covered in this syllabus. We are here to help students learn and grow. The course will be fun with everyone's engagement and effort.

### **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 classmates 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

- 30% 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.
- 30% Team presentation: Students are asked to present a farm evaluation in class. Details will be provided. This is a group project.
- 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://gatorevals.aa.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.

## 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/](http://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](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu)
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 352-392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)
- Contact an Animal Sciences undergraduate advisor in room 100

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## **Covid Situation**

We will strictly follow the UF guidelines, expectations and requirements regarding the covid pandemic to make the course as safe as possible for everyone. This will mean that the instructors will wear masks if mask wearing is recommended, expected, or required by UF.

## **In-Class Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for

personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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Wk	Date	Topic	Location	Instructor
		<i>No class the first 5 weeks of the fall semester</i>		
1	9/29	Introduction to dairy farm evaluation: Overall view of dairy farm operations, calf facilities	155	De Vries/Toledo
2	10/6	Observing dairy farm performance, I: Cow facilities, labor organization Team assignment handout	155/DU	De Vries/Toledo
3	10/13	Key performance indicators and benchmarks: Nutrition, body condition scoring, lameness	155/DU	De Vries/Toledo
4	10/20	Observing dairy farm performance, II: Reproduction	155/DU	De Vries/Toledo
5	10/27	Farm visit	TBA	De Vries/Toledo
6	11/3	Putting farm observations in context: Maternity, lactation, milking procedures, SCC, mastitis, milking equipment, parlor management	155/DU	De Vries/Toledo
7	11/10	Farm visit	TBA	De Vries/Toledo
8	11/17	Presenting farm evaluations on calf facilities and management (Team assignment)	155	De Vries/Toledo
9	TBA	Southern Regional Dairy Challenge (optional)	Texas	De Vries/Toledo
	TBA	Exam	TBA	De Vries

DU = Dairy Unit or Calf Unit, TBA = to be announced