

# Sheep Production

## I. General Information

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### **Class Meetings**

- Spring 2024
- Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-10:25

### **Instructor**

- Kyle Mendes
- Office: Animal Science (Bldg 459) Room 212
- Email: [kmendes15@ufl.edu](mailto:kmendes15@ufl.edu)
- Cell phone: (209)556-7499
- Office Hours: MWF 11:35-12:35

### **Course Description**

**This course provides a comprehensive overview of sheep and goat production, covering key aspects such as breed selection, nutrition, reproduction, health management, and marketing strategies. Students will gain practical knowledge and skills necessary for successful and sustainable small ruminant farming.**

### **Required Readings and Works**

- Links to all required reading material are available in the schedule of the syllabus and will be made available in each module on canvas
- Materials and Supplies Fees: n/a

## II. Graded Work

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### Description of Graded Work

#### Grading Scale

<u>Work</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Introductory Biography</u>	Students will submit a 300-word personal biography to introduce themselves to the course instructor. Required content includes self-introduction, background, interests, major, goals upon graduation, and what may help them succeed in this class.		<u>50</u>
<u>Two Exams</u>	The exams will test the students' understanding of the concepts taught through 10 weeks of class. The exams will be taken in class and consist of ~100 questions. The questions will consist of fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice and short and long answer.		<u>200</u>
<u>Written Assignments</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Compare livestock production benchmarks and world population</b> One page paper comparing production of a modern sheep production to its counter part 50 year ago while also comparing the worlds population growth over the same time period. Focusing on how we have increased production to feed a larger population.</li> <li>• <b>Production Claim Assignment</b> Student will select one production claim that is listed on the label of a lamb product and research its merit. Then prepare a powerpoint slide to explain the production claim.</li> <li>• <b>Country Profile</b> Student will select one country other than the US and profile what the diet of an average person in this country consist of highlighting any lamb in the diet. Then compare that diet to the average person in the US.</li> </ul>	<u>6 1 page papers</u>	<u>50 points each</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Survey of consumers of sheep products and connections to modern livestock production</b> Student will survey three non family members on their daily eating habits and feelings towards sheep production. Then write a one page paper comparing it to their own diet and feelings towards animal scoured foods.</li> <li>• <b>Selection of Animal Agriculture related Issue</b> Students will select one animal agriculture related issue and write a one page profile what are the strongest arguments of each side of that issue.</li> <li>• <b>Define Ethics and Sustainability with relation to Livestock Production</b> Students will write a one page paper defining what they believe ethical and sustainable livestock production looks like.</li> </ul>		
<b><u>Comprehensive Final Exam</u></b>	There will be a FINAL exam. The exam will test the students’ understanding of modern and historical impacts meat has had on the diet and lifestyle of different cultures taught during weeks 1-16 in the course. As well as students should be able to develop and defend their viewpoint of if and how animal source foods should be included in the diet. The exam will be taken in class. The questions will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, identification, and short and long answer.		<b><u>200 points</u></b>
<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	Attendance will be tracked through points of day which will be a short reflection on the discuss of class that week given through canvas at the conclusion of class every Friday.		<b><u>160 points</u></b>

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

### III. Annotated Weekly Schedule

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#### **Week 1-2: Introduction to Sheep and Goat Production January 9<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Overview of the sheep and goat industry
- Importance of small ruminant production
- Historical perspective and current trends
- Basic anatomy and physiology

#### **Week 3-4: Breeds and Breeding Management January 23<sup>rd</sup>- February 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Identification and characteristics of common sheep and goat breeds
- Principles of selection for breeding
- Reproductive anatomy and physiology
- Estrus synchronization and breeding techniques

#### **Week 5-6: Nutrition and Feeding February 6<sup>th</sup> – February 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Nutritional requirements of sheep and goats
- Forage and pasture management
- Feed formulation and supplementation
- Managing nutritional challenges

#### **Week 7-8: Health and Disease Management February 20<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Common diseases affecting sheep and goats
- Vaccination protocols
- Parasite control and prevention

- Biosecurity measures

#### **Week 9-10: Housing and Facilities March 5<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

- Design and construction of sheep and goat facilities
- Fencing and handling equipment
- Environmental considerations
- Record-keeping for management

#### **Week 11-12: Reproduction Lambing/Kidding Management March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Gestation and parturition in sheep and goats
- Neonatal care and management
- Weaning strategies
- Reproductive technologies

#### **Week 13-14: Marketing and Business Management April 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Market trends and pricing strategies
- Value-added products from sheep and goat enterprises
- Business planning and budgeting
- Legal and regulatory considerations

#### **Week 15: Final Project and Review April 23<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**

- Culmination of knowledge through a final project (e.g., farm management plan, marketing strategy)
- Review of key concepts and practical applications
- Course evaluations and feedback

## **VI. Required Policies**

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### **Attendance Policy**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## **Working with Livestock**

Working with livestock will require students to adhere to handling practices provided by the instructor either in written or verbal format. 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.

## **Biosafety and Security**

The biosafety and biosecurity of animals and students is a top priority for laboratory activities. Disease transmission can have severe negative consequences on animal and human health that can also be fiscally taxing. The use of cell phones or cameras at animal facilities is not permitted without receiving written permission. Instructors and TA's may dismiss students from class for violation of biosecurity procedures.

## **Students Requiring Accommodation**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

## **UF Evaluations Process**

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.aa.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.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## **The Writing Studio**

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

## **In-Class Recordings**

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.