ANS 4932 Dairy Farm Evaluation
Wednesdays, 2:00 – 6:00 PM Dairy Science Room 201

Course credits
Two credits will be given for successful completion of this course. Along with this course, students will potentially have the opportunity to participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge in November and the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge/Academy in April, if they so desire.

Course Instructors:
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Course Description
Dairy Farm Evaluation is designed to enable students to evaluate the management of finances, health, reproduction, feeding, housing, milking, manure handling and raising heifer replacements on dairy farms. By the final project, students should be able to present a well-organized summary for improving a herd’s weaknesses and optimizing any opportunities. This class is not only a dairy management course, but also training for the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. Students interested in becoming University of Florida Dairy Challenge team members should take this class.

Several guest lecturers will participate in the class. There will be at least three farm visits during class and one Saturday farm tour.

Prerequisite
None, although ANS 3251 Biology and Management of Dairy Cattle and ANS 3250L Dairy Cattle Practicum are highly recommended.

Course Goals
At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:
• Walk on a dairy farm, appraise its calf raising, milking, herd health, nutrition and reproduction programs, facilities, finances, record keeping, and employee relations, then make a concise analysis of strengths and weaknesses.
• With team members, present a PowerPoint which critiques a farm’s strengths and weaknesses, in addition to making economically rational suggestions for improvement.
• Potentially become Regional and/or North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge team members.

Class Attendance
Class attendance is expected and contributes to the final grade. 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.
Student Email
Students are responsible for checking their Gatorlink email daily. Course information will be sent via email and Canvas.

Text
There is no text book for the course. However, the Virginia 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Materials provide an excellent glossary, plus acronym definitions by subject, in addition to a lot of great basic information. It is strongly recommended that you refer to this resource found at: http://youth.dasc.vt.edu/content/dam/youth_dasc_vt_edu/quiz-bowl/2017vadqb-materials.pdf
In addition there will be many handouts.

Grading
Grading (A through E) will be based on:
Weekly quizzes/worksheets/participation 25%
Presentations of farm evaluation topics 25%
Farm Evaluation Notebook 25%
Final project (dairy farm evaluation) 25%

Grading scale:
A 93-100%
A- 90-92.9%
B+ 87-89.9%
B 83-86.9%
B- 80-82.9%
C+ 77-79.9%
C 73-76.9%
C- 70-72.9%
D+ 67-69.9%
D 63-66.9%
D- 60-62.9%
E <60%

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

Farm Evaluation Topic Presentation (25 Pts)
You will be provided 1-2 journal or extension articles on each of the topics below. Students will present one of the topics to the class. All students must read the articles prior to class and write a short synopsis of each. Include key benchmarks of evaluation in your synopsis.

The topics will be (subject to some modification):
• Dairy Facilities
• Nutrition
• Reproduction
• Genetics
• Milk production and quality
• Dairy Record Keeping (PCDART or DairyComp, etc.)
• Herd Health
• Calf and Heifer management
• Farm Economics
• Labor Management
• Dairy cattle welfare (from Dairy Production Conference)
The student(s) presenting the topics will need to accumulate additional literature regarding their topic. Examples of sources include:
1. Popular press (Hoard’s Dairyman or Dairy Herd Management, etc.)
2. DAIReXNET
3. Land Grant University’s dairy newsletters and articles (i.e. UF Dairy EDIS publications)
4. S-Pac (American Dairy Science Association archived collection of conference proceedings)
5. Journal of Dairy Science and other refereed journals

**Participation/quizzes and worksheets (25 pts)**
Students are expected to submit 2-3 questions or discussion points via Canvas for each topic covered prior to class. Points will be awarded for preparation (1 pt) and participation (1 pt). In some instances, quizzes or worksheets will be assigned.

**Farm Evaluation Notebook (25 Pts)**
All students should assemble a folder of topics covered. Include in the folder:
- Articles discussed in class and those you find on your own
- Synopsis of each article including key benchmarks or indicators useful for evaluation
- Summaries of your observations and learning experiences from farm visits

Individual summaries of topics and farm visits will be submitted via Canvas for grading. Completion of folders will be evaluated and graded at the end of the semester.

**Group Projects (25 Pts)**
Students are encouraged to participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge, which is an excellent learning experience and culmination of many of the topics covered in class. The Southern Regional Dairy Challenge is a meeting with students from other universities to practice dairy farm evaluation. Students receive training on dairy farm evaluation from industry experts and are placed on teams with students from participating universities for a competition in dairy farm evaluation. Participation in the dairy challenge will fulfill group project requirements. Students will be graded on level of participation, effort and competency in farm evaluation topics.

Students who do not participate in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge are required to perform a farm evaluation and present their findings to the class, just as Dairy Challenge teams will do. The evaluation and presentation may be done individually or as a group depending on number of students. Students may evaluate the UF dairy or a local commercial dairy.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Academic Honesty**
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 (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are 4
obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**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.

**Online Course Evaluation**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

**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 and 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.
- **Health and Wellness**
  U Matter, We Care
  If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
  Counseling and Wellness Center
  http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University
  Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
  Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
  Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
  University Police Department
  392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
  http://www.police.ufl.edu/

**Academic Resources**
- E-learning technical support
  352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. https://iss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml.
- Career Resource Center
- Library Support
  http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 22</td>
<td>Intro to Dairy Farm Evaluation – How to evaluate a dairy farm (Nelson/Devries)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Evaluating herd health (TBD)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Economics and Dairy records management (Nelson/Devries)</td>
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<td><em>Presentations on herd health, records management and economics</em></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Evaluation of dairy nutrition (Santos/Ferraretto)</td>
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<td><em>Presentations on dairy nutrition and calf and heifer management</em></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Farm Visit #1 (Nelson)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Florida Dairy Production Conference</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Reproduction and genetics (DeVries)</td>
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<td><em>Presentations on welfare and repro/genetics</em></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Evaluation of milk quality, milking systems and routines (Nelson)</td>
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<td><em>Presentations on milk quality and personnel management</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Farm Visit # 2 – Alliance Dairies (Nelson)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Facility Design, lighting and heat abatement (Dahl or Thompson); Dairy farm soil, water and waste management (Mike Holloway)</td>
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<td><em>Presentation on facility design and soil/water/manure management</em></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>UF Farm Evaluation</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Review of dairy farm evaluation: Benchmarking, collecting evidence and presenting findings</td>
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<td>Nov. 11-13</td>
<td>Southern Regional Dairy Challenge, Knoxville, TN</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Summary of Southern Regional and presentations of those not attending Southern Dairy Challenge</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Prepare for UF Dairy Daze</td>
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