

## Course Syllabus 2023

ANS 4932 – Special Topics in Animal Sciences:  
Dairy Farm Evaluation

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Dairy Farm Evaluation

2 credits

Friday 7-9<sup>th</sup> period (1:55 – 4:55 PM) - Classroom  
155, Dairy Unit or TBA



<https://one.uf.edu/soc/?category=%22CWSP%22&term=%222238%22&course-code=%22ans%22>

### Instructors

Dr. Izabella Toledo. Extension Scientist. Office is room 204F in the Dairy Science building. Office hours are when mutually convenient. Office phone number (352) 294-6987.

Dr. Albert De Vries. Professor. Office is room 100C in the Animal Science building. Office hours are the hour after each class or when mutually convenient. Office phone number (352) 294-6983.

When the course has started, all communication with the instructors must be through Canvas. We are here to help students learn and grow, and the course will be fun with everyone's engagement and effort.

### Teaching Assistant

Anna Hanson. M.S. Student. Located in room 104C in the Dairy Science building. Office hours when mutually convenient. Cell number (563) 419-7423. Email [ahanson2@ufl.edu](mailto:ahanson2@ufl.edu)

### Course Description

Dairy Farm Evaluation is designed to enable students to learn the basics about dairy farm evaluation. We will evaluate all aspects of a dairy farm including farm financials, management, health, reproduction, nutrition and feeding, facilities, and milking. Throughout the course, the students should be able to analyze, present and discuss case studies, and 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 opportunities for improvement with a budget. This class is not only a dairy management course, but also training for the National Dairy Challenge Contest and Academy event planned to be held in November of 2023. See <https://www.dairychallenge.org/>. Participation in the National Dairy Challenge Contest or Academy 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 dairy cattle. 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. To effectively evaluate the farms, 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.

### **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 beginning of each class. Every student is allowed to miss 1 class unexcused. If a student misses (part of) a class, either excused or unexcused, it is the responsibility of the student to catch 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 permission is given. 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 to primarily to post materials and announcements. All electronic communication between students and instructors should occur through Canvas.

### **Text and Material Covered**

No text is assigned for this course. Students may be asked to read assigned readings posted on the website and turn in assignments.

Guidelines on scoring will be shared with students.

### **Grading**

*Undergraduate Students*

- **25% - Class participation:** Students need to sign in at the start of each practicum. Participation means being engaged during the entire class period. Unsatisfactory participation or unsatisfactory assignment may result in a loss of points.
- **45% - Case Studies:** Students will be teamed up to create a case study report based on the 4 units throughout the semester. Students will work together with their team (2 to 3 students) to evaluate a dairy farm on that specific unit and include pictures of farm, evidence from the data, and a partial budget to help backup the opportunities discovered for that specific unit.
- **30% - Final Presentation:** Students will be asked to present a final farm evaluation using information gathered from case studies. This is a group project that is built over what is taught and observed over the entire semester.

### *Graduate Students*

- **25% - Class participation:** Students need to sign in at the start of each practicum. Participation means being engaged during the entire class period. Unsatisfactory participation or unsatisfactory assignment may result in a loss of points.
- **25% - Case Studies:** Students will be teamed up to create a case study report based on the 4 units throughout the semester. Students will work together with their team (2 to 3 students) to evaluate a dairy farm on that specific unit and include pictures of farm, evidence from the data, and a partial budget to help backup the opportunities discovered for that specific unit.
- **25% - Final Presentation:** Students will be asked to present a final farm evaluation using information gathered from case studies. This is a group project that is built over what is taught and observed over the entire semester.
- **25%- Graduate Project:** Topics to be arranged. Student will be ask to develop a paper/project using information gathered during the course with scientific emphasis. This is an individual project that will be presented at the end of the semester.

### **Grading Scale**

**A= 90-100%   B= 80-89.9%   C= 70-79.9%   D= 60-69.9%   F= < 60.9%**

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

### **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 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 wellbeing 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/) o Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, SelfHelp 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.

## **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.



ANS 4932 – Special Topics in Animal Sciences: Dairy Farm Evaluation  
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Friday 7-9<sup>th</sup> period (1:55 – 4:55 PM) - Classroom 155, Dairy Unit or TBA – Fall 2023 - 2 credits

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>8/25</b>	<b>1:55</b>	Introduction to dairy farm evaluation: Overall view of dairy farm operations	<b>155</b>	Toledo De Vries Hanson	
		<b>2:50</b>	Break			
		<b>3:00</b>	Introduction to evaluation of farm financials/Partial budget			
		<b>3:50</b>	Break			
		<b>4:00</b>	Partial budget hands on practice			
		<b>4:30</b>	<b>Project Assignment</b>			
<b>2</b>	<b>9/1</b>	<b>1:55</b>	Introduction to DairyComp: Key performance indicators	<b>155</b>	Toledo Hanson	
		<b>2:50</b>	Break			
		<b>3:00</b>	DairyComp hands on practice			
		<b>3:50</b>	Break			
		<b>4:00</b>	DairyComp hands on practice			
<b>3</b>	<b>9/8</b>	<b>1:55</b>	Cow and calf facilities	<b>155</b>	Toledo De Vries Hanson	
		<b>2:55</b>	Drive to the Dairy Unit			
		<b>3:25</b>	Cow and calf facilities: observation and evaluation	<b>Dairy Unit</b>		
		<b>4:45</b>	<b>Case study 1 assignment</b>			
<b>4</b>	<b>9/15</b>	<b>1:55</b>	<b>Case study 1 presentation</b>	<b>155</b>	Toledo De Vries Hanson	<b>Case study 1</b>
		<b>2:25</b>	Break			
		<b>2:30</b>	Reproduction protocols and key performance indicators*			
		<b>3:25</b>	Evaluating reproduction on DairyComp, genetics and beef on dairy			
<b>5</b>	<b>9/22</b>	<b>1:55</b>	Nutrition	<b>155</b>	Toledo De Vries	
		<b>2:45</b>	Drive to Dairy Unit			
		<b>3:15</b>	Nutrition Lab	<b>Dairy Unit</b>		
		<b>4:30</b>	<b>Case study 2 assignment</b>			

6	9/29	1:55	Case study 2 presentation	155	Toledo De Vries Hanson	Case study 2
		2:25	Break			
		2:35	Dairy cow health, BCS, lameness, hoof health*			
		3:25	Evaluating health records on Dairy Comp			
7	10/6		<i>NO CLASS- Homecoming</i>			
8	10/13		<i>NO CLASS-Graduate Student Symposium</i>			
9	10/20	1:55	Transition Period	155	Toledo Hanson	
		2:50	Break			
		3:00	Maternity and Newborn Calf Management			
		4:00	Evaluating calf records on Dairy Comp			
		4:45	Case study 3 assignment			
10	10/27	1:55	Case study 3 presentation	155	De Vries Hanson	Case study 3
		2:25	Break			
		2:35	Milking parlor, milking equipment, milking procedures, SCC and mastitis			
		3:00	Evaluating udder health on Dairy Comp			
		3:30	Drive to the Dairy Unit	Dairy Unit		
		4:00	Observation of the milking parlor and milking equipment			
11	11/3	1:55-4:55	Visit to a commercial dairy farm	TBA	Toledo De Vries Hanson	
12	11/10		<i>NO CLASS, Holiday</i>			
13	11/17		Graduate student presentation	155	Toledo De Vries Hanson	
14	11/24		<i>NO CLASS, Thanksgiving</i>			
15	12/1		Project presentations	155	Toledo De Vries Hanson	Project presentations

\*Guest Lecturer

\*\*Schedule subject to change.\*\*