Course Proposal

Dairy production in pastoral environments

School of Agriculture - University of Buenos Aires

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Director: Dr José Luis Rossi
General Course description
The course will last a period of four weeks based on different class activities mainly oral presentations and discussion of selected readings. In addition, two field trips will be organized to visit different areas of the Pampa region were dairy production is developed. Field trips will involve full day visits to a number of farms to observe and discuss how dairy production is organized. We will be visiting two different areas visiting between two to three farms per trip. Regions to be visited are: Zona Abasto Norte o Abasto Sur (Luján o Bavío, Buenos Aires), a 1 day field trip; Zona Oeste (Carlos Casares, Buenos Aires), a 1 day field trip; Zona Litoral (Gualeguay, Entre Ríos) a 1 day field trip. The region to be visited could change from one year to the next one because of weather conditions. During these visits, farmers and local consultants will provide information about different aspects of dairy farming in the area.

Objectives
The aim of this course is to understand the principles of design and function of dairy systems under pastoral conditions, focusing in the particular situation of Argentina, through the analysis of data from discussion groups and the analysis of the information from contrasting study cases.

Course pre-requisites
A background in forage and animal production is recommended.

Required readings


Course calendar
Formal class activity will take place in the School Campus involving lectures, oral presentations and discussion of selected reading. This will be developed from Monday to Thursday in the afternoon (3 hr per session).

Week 1: class activity, one day field trip.
Week 2: class activity.
Week 3: class activity, one day field trip.
Week 4: class activity, one day field trip.

Evaluation criteria
Students must participate in all planned activities and present an essay at the end of the course.

Attendance policy
Students are required to attend at least 80% of lectures and a minimum of two field trips.