Dairy Cattle Practicum
11:067:201; 2 credits
Spring/Fall 20##

Coordinators: Dr. Kathleen Rahman 848-932-1168, rahman@aesop.rutgers.edu
Joanne Powell: 732-406-9727, jpowell@aesop.rutgers.edu

Meeting: By Arrangement: 6 h of barn time/week
Location: Heifer barn – Cook campus
Prerequisites: Medical clearance to work with animals. Registration requires special permission.

Course Description:
During practicum, students complete 84 h of work on the Cook campus farm. Students are fully trained and supervised by animal care staff where they learn a variety of animal husbandry skills and general care of dairy heifers.

Learning Goals:
After completion of the course students will have:
1. Gained experience in routine handling and care of dairy cattle that will reinforce knowledge and skillsets learned in previous courses.
2. An understanding of daily, monthly and yearly maintenance and veterinary care required when owning and caring for dairy cattle.

Course Web page: https://sakai.rutgers.edu
Use your RU net id and password to login. If you are enrolled in the course there will be a tab identified by the course name. Use the menu bar on the left-side to navigate the site.

Topics:
- Safety
- Routine Care
- Animal Breeds
- Handling
- Cleaning
- Feeding/Nutrition
- Estrus synchronization
- Emergencies/Health Care
- Parasites/Deworming
- Vaccinations
- Facilities
- Behavior
- Reproduction/Lactation

Student Attendance: Students are required to complete the mandatory 84 hours per semester. For barn hours, sign in on the check sheet when you get to the barn and briefly list topics covered/tasks completed. Three notified absences are allowed. Absences beyond that will result in 10% grade drop for each thereafter. Students are responsible for making up lesson information missed due to absence.

** Students are expected to participate readily and maintain a strong work ethic throughout the semester.

Grading:
Grade scale: A- 100-90%, B+ 85-89%, B- 80-84%, C+ 75-79%, C- 70-74%, D- 60-69%, F- <60%.
Grading Criteria:

- Finishing time (84 hours between first & last day of classes): 40%
- Participation: 40%
- Exam and practical: 20%
- Total 100%

- **Finishing time (Hours and Attendance):** Students are required to complete the mandatory 84 hours per semester. Three notified absences are allowed. Absences beyond that will result in 10% grade drop for each thereafter. Students are responsible for making up lesson information missed due to absence.

- **Participation:** Students will be evaluated on their participation in group discussions, tasks, reliability, and diligence when working in the animal facilities throughout the semester. Below you will find a breakdown of the criteria we are looking for when assigning your participation portion of your grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A (4 points)</th>
<th>B (3 points)</th>
<th>C (2 points)</th>
<th>D and below (1 point)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrives and is prepared to start on time.</td>
<td>ALWAYS</td>
<td>OFTEN</td>
<td>SOMETIMES</td>
<td>HARDLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participates readily in class discussions, projects and activities.</td>
<td>ALWAYS</td>
<td>OFTEN</td>
<td>SOMETIMES</td>
<td>HARDLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When performing routine animal care: student will readily engage in work without being asked or instructed.</td>
<td>ALWAYS</td>
<td>OFTEN</td>
<td>SOMETIMES</td>
<td>HARDLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engages with other students in group, shows willingness to help out.</td>
<td>ALWAYS</td>
<td>OFTEN</td>
<td>SOMETIMES</td>
<td>HARDLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student displays a positive attitude during practicum session.</td>
<td>ALWAYS</td>
<td>OFTEN</td>
<td>SOMETIMES</td>
<td>HARDLY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Exam and Practical:** To assess students’ progress in achieving the objective of the practicum, students will be given a written exam during the first week of the practicum (not graded). The same exam will be given at the end of the semester and graded. In addition, a hands-on practical will be given at the end of the semester and graded.