



AGR*2350 - Animal Production Systems and Industry: Beef, Swine and Others

Fall 2026 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course is designed to introduce the student to animal production systems in Canada. Beef, swine, companion animals, aquaculture, mink and other alternative animals will be covered throughout the value-chain. Topics include food, health and wellness (domestic animals and human), nutrition, housing, genetics, reproduction, husbandry practices and processing. The course includes laboratories and animal production unit tours.

Prerequisite(s): (2 of BIOL*1050, BIOL*1070, BIOL*1080, BIOL*1090)

Department(s): Department of Animal Biosciences

Lecture Schedule

MonWed 5:30pm-6:50pm in ROZH*101 (9/10 to 12/22)

Date	Description
Week 1	Introduction to Animal Production Systems
Week 2	Beef
Week 3	Dairy
Week 4	Swine
Week 5	Guest Lecture
Week 6	Poultry
Week 7	Aquaculture
Week 8	Small Ruminants
Week 9	Equine
Week 10	Companion Animals/Guest Lecture
Week 11	Alternative Livestock
Week 12	Future of Animal Production

Lab / Seminar Sections

Day	Topic	Location
Week of Sept 7	No Labs	n/a
Week of Sept 14	No Labs	n/a
Week of Sept 21	Feed Lab	Classroom
Week of Sept 28	Beef Tour/Aquaculture Tour	Meet at the bus- Odd Sections to Beef, Even Sections to Aqua
Week of Oct 5	Beef Tour/Aquaculture Tour	Meet at the bus- Odd Sections to Aqua, Even Sections to Beef
Week of Oct 12	Thanksgiving break	n/a
Week of Oct 19	No Labs	n/a
Week of Oct 26	Swine	Classroom



Week of Nov 2	Sheep	Classroom
Week of Nov 9	Livestock Tools	Classroom
Week of Nov 16	No Lab	n/a
Week of Nov 23	No Lab	Online Lab Quiz

NOTE: Schedule subject to change. Please see Courselink for updates

Instructor Information

Jennifer MacNicol

Email: jmacnico@uoguelph.ca

Additional Support

TA office hours by appointment

Course E-mail:

agr2350@uoguelph.ca

Lab Coordinator:

Julie Kim jungmi@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Breno Moreira bmorei01@uoguelph.ca

Katie Kroeze kkroeze@uoguelph.ca

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Learning Resources

Required Resources

No textbook is required for this course.

Students will be required to pay \$20.00 per field trip (x 2 = \$40 total) to cover bussing cost of field trips. Please bring \$20 with you to your lab, hand in to your TA and ensure that they mark you as PAID on the attendance sheet.

Students are required to have access to computer and technical capabilities to access CourseLink to access course materials, submit assignments, quizzes, participate in online discussions etc.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

There are no textbooks for this course. All additional material will be posted via Courselink



Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
Field Trip Bus Fees	Required	\$20 x 2

Students are advised that prices are often determined by the publisher or bookstore and may be subject to change.

Field Trip Fees

For those courses in the Department of Animal Biosciences that have a field trip component - an associated fee for each field trip in the amount of \$20 will apply. Further details on how these fees will be collected will be provided in class/on CourseLink; along with a waiver form that will need to be completed prior to the trip(s).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the basic structure of the industry and general production practices for all major livestock production species in Canada. Including topics relating to husbandry and management, nutrition, health, welfare, genetics, and reproduction of each of the major livestock species.
2. Understand the role of livestock production systems in the Canadian and global economy.
3. Understand and critically evaluate current issues facing livestock agriculture in Canada.
4. Effectively communicate a position surrounding key issues in the livestock industry.
5. Understand how new technologies can advance livestock production practices.

Other Class Information

During the course, your instructor will interact with you on various course matters on the course website using the following ways of communication:

Announcements: The instructor will use **Announcements** on the Course Home page to provide you with course reminders and updates. Please check this section frequently for course updates from your instructor.

Ask Your TA Discussion: Use this discussion forum to ask questions of your instructor about content or course-related issues with which you are unfamiliar. If you encounter difficulties, the instructor is here to help you. Please post general course-related questions to the discussion forum so that all students have an opportunity to review the response. To access this discussion forum, select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu.

Email: If you have a conflict that prevents you from completing course requirements, or have a question concerning a personal matter, you can send your instructor a private message by email. The instructor will attempt to respond to your email within 24 hours. **Please e-mail the course email first at agr2350@uoguelph.ca**

Virtual office hours: If you have a complex question you would like to discuss with your instructor, and cannot meet in person, you may book a video meeting appointment with your Instructor. Video meetings depend on the availability and are booked on a first come first served basis.

Office hours: Instructor and TAs will be available for office hours by request.

Netiquette Expectations

The course website is considered the classroom and the same protections, expectations, guidelines, and regulations used in face-to-face settings apply. **Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.** Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students;
- Using offensive language;
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own;
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references;
- Using AI to generate an introductory or response post;
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments;
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites;
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student;
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions;



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- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor;
 - Discriminating against fellow students, instructors, and/or TAs;
 - Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services;
 - Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system; and
 - Sharing your username and password.

Lab / Seminar Schedule

Week of Sept 7

No Labs

Week of Sept 14

No Labs

Week of Sept 21

Feed Lab

Classroom

Odd Sections meet at 2:30

Even Sections meet at 3:45

Week of Sept 28

Beef/Aqua Tour

Meet at Bus

Odd Sections to **Beef**

Even Sections to **Aquaculture**

Week of Oct 5

Beef/Aqua Tour

Meet at Bus

Even Sections to **Beef**

Odd Sections to **Aquaculture**

Week of Oct 12

No Labs

Thanksgiving break

Week of Oct 19

No Labs

Week of Oct 26

Swine Lab

Classroom

Even Sections meet at 2:30

Odd Sections meet at 3:45



Week of Nov 2

Sheep Lab

Classroom

Odd Sections meet at **2:30**

Even Sections meet at **3:45**

Week of Nov 9

Livestock Tools

Classroom

Even Section meet at **2:30**

Odd Sections meet at **3:45**

Week of Nov 16

No Labs

Week of Nov 23

No Lab - Online Lab Quiz

Important information for labs:

•Students should arrive at least 5-10 minutes before the bus departure time on field trip days, buses leave at 2:30pm sharp, between the ANNU and Food Science buildings. For the field trips please dress for the weather and wear close-toed shoes/boots

•In-person labs will be in scheduled classrooms. Please note which section starts lab at 2:30 and which at 3:45

•An online lab quiz will cover ALL lab material in the last week of labs. It must be completed by the Sunday night of that week by 11:59 pm. It is meant to be done individually and will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser (no camera)

•Please do not leave completing the lab quiz until the last minute. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for not completing the lab quizzes on time.

Please see Courselink for specific details about each week's lab activities

Teaching and Learning Activities

The first lecture will commence on Thursday, Sept. 5th, beginning with a review of the course expectations **Topics covered in lecture include:**

- Importance of animal agriculture to our economy
- Historical context /background of animal agriculture
- Intro to principals of animal production
- Livestock feeds and feeding
- Pet industry
- Aquaculture
- Beef production
- Dairy industry
- Poultry
- Sheep and goat (Fibre/Meat/Dairy)
- Swine industry
- Equine industry
- Alternative livestock

For each major livestock industry topics covered include: state of the industry, product supply and marketing, basic management, nutrition, reproduction, health and opportunities and challenges, and current issues



There will also be a number of guest lectures in this course. All material presented in class (including those from guest lecture) is considered testable material.

Lecture order is subject to change from the above list. All lecture materials will be posted to Courselink, with the exception of guest lectures, which will be provided at the guest lecturer's discretion.

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Hot Topic (4 x 5%)	20%	Various
Midterm	35%	Oct 31st
Lab Quiz	5%	Due by Nov 29th
Final Exam	40%	TBD

Assessment Details

Discussion

Hot Topics

20

Students will be required to participate in four scholarly discussions on current hot-topics within the livestock industry. Students will be assigned to a forum board in CourseLink.

Topic one: Opens Monday Sept 28th, Closes Sun Oct 4th

Topic two: Opens Monday Oct 19st, Closes Sunday Oct 25th

Topic three: Opens Monday Nov 2rd, Closes Sun Nov 8th

Topic four: Opens Monday Nov 23th, Closes Sun Nov 29th

Each topic is worth 5%:

3% will be for the student opening argument/position on the topic and should include support for their position and proper citations of referenced work.

2% will be awarded for participating in the discussion of other students

Please note that the discussion should remain academic in nature and civil. Any personal attacks or unsuitable language will result in a grade of zero for the topic.

Students are not permitted to use generative AI to create their Hot Topics opening argument or comments.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Exam

Midterm

35

Midterm date is Sat Oct 31th

6:30-8pm

ROZ101

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 5

Quizzes

Lab Quiz

5

Online lab quizzes will cover material presented in lab. It will be online consisting of MC, short ans, T/F, fill in the blank, etc. type questions. Quizzes will be open for 48 hours and must be completed individually.



Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 3, 5

Exam

Final Exam

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 5

40

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2026 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: December 04

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Completion of both examinations (midterm and final) is required to receive credit for the course. The course will follow Undergraduate Grading Procedures found under Grades for VIII. Undergraduate Degree regulations and Procedures in the undergraduate calendar. Exam questions will be based **ENTIRELY** on the lectures and lab materials, and includes material presented by guest lecturers. The format of the exam will include short and long answer questions. Students may require a basic calculator for the exams, however cellular phones will not be permitted as a calculator. SAS students are encouraged to schedule their exams earlier in the day for the midterms and final so that Dr. MacNicol can visit the SAS exam centre and ask SAS students if they have questions. For students who have missed an exam, we reserve the right to change the format of the exam for students who miss the scheduled midterm and final.

Submission of Assignments

Assignment details will be posted on CourseLink. Submission of assignments will be via CourseLink. Date and time stamp from Dropbox will be considered at the due date and submission time.

Any re-grading of assignments will be done by the course instructor, and assignments will be re-graded in its entirety. Therefore the grade may be higher, equal to, or lower than the originally assigned grade. Students should first contact their TA to discuss the assignment before requesting a regrade.

Late Assignments

Assignments have assigned due dates for students to hand in projects described above. Marks will be deducted for **late assignments with a 10%-mark reduction for every day** the assignment is not handed in. Students will receive a zero for the assignment if the assignment has not been handed in within 5 days after the due date has passed, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Any requests for extensions must be made **before** assignment due date. For hot topic discussions, only the "opening statement" will be considered for late assessment.

Course Standard Statements

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor. Any material from this course is not for external distribution, unless granted permission by the instructor

Use of AI in the Classroom

Review the University of Guelph's Introduction to AI for students here: <https://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/GenAIStudents#s-lg-box-16992677>
Pay particular attention to "Academic Integrity and generative AI".

The approach to AI in this classroom is as a tool to enhance learning. The use generative AI to create or respond to Hot Topics discussion posts is NOT ALLOWED. The use of generative AI during the online lab quiz is also NOT ALLOWED.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct

regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly. e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.



Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)