

COURSE DETAILS

" NON INFECTIVE DISEASES "

DEGREE PROGRAMME: PRECISION LIVESTOCK FARMING
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

GENERAL INFORMATION – TEACHER REFERENCES

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

INTEGRATED COURSE: LIVESTOCK HEALTH MONITORING
MODULE: NON INFECTIVE DISEASES
SSD OF THE MODULE: MVET-04/B – VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE (EX VET08 – VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE M. 855/2015)
TEACHING LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
CHANNEL: N/A
YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME: II
SEMESTER: II SEMESTER
CFU: 5

REQUIRED PRELIMINARY COURSES (IF MENTIONED IN THE COURSE STRUCTURE “REGOLAMENTO”)

None

PREREQUISITES (IF APPLICABLE)

Understanding of the main breeding techniques and management procedures used in livestock species.

LEARNING GOALS

The course aims to provide students with basic (theoretical and practical) knowledge aimed at protecting the health and welfare of farm animals, through:

- ✓ *the dissemination of the most recent and advanced knowledge, guidelines, and European management standards of the herd, aimed at facilitating and supporting the clinical activities of the veterinary practitioner;*
- ✓ *the acquisition of epidemiological, pathogenetic, and prophylactic knowledge of the main diseases affecting them, in order to facilitate and support the clinical activities of the veterinary practitioner;*

- ✓ the implementation of activities aimed at promoting the development of appropriate management reasoning necessary to address and prevent the main individual and herd diseases, as well as to assess their impact on the entire food chain.

Moreover, the objective of the course is to introduce students to the basic knowledge of the main infectious diseases of domestic and wild animals transmissible to humans (zoonoses), providing fundamental elements of etiopathogenesis and epidemiology. The course aims to develop an integrated understanding based on the "One Health" principle, which recognizes the inseparable interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health, as indicated by the Ministry of Health as the ideal approach to achieve global health.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES (DUBLIN DESCRIPTORS)

Knowledge and understanding

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge and methodological tools necessary to analyze the main issues related to the health of livestock animals of zootechnical interest, which will allow them to understand the causal connections between animal farming and the onset of diseases, as well as the main relationships that exist with the maintenance of organic welfare.

Students must therefore demonstrate that they know, understand, and can contextualize the management issues related to individual and herd pathologies in livestock. Furthermore, learners must demonstrate the ability to develop arguments concerning the link between predisposing factors, causal agents, and the management aspects of such diseases based on the knowledge acquired. The proposed educational path aims to provide students with the knowledge and methodological tools necessary to analyze, define, and support the veterinary practitioner in addressing and solving farm-related clinical problems.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The educational path is aimed at transmitting the skills and the methodological and operational tools necessary to formulate deductions and considerations on animal health and to concretely apply the acquired knowledge to carry out the management of the zootechnical farm. The student must be able to use the collected information to solve problems concerning the health of farm animals, also through the development and analysis of spreadsheets and specific programs for herd health management. The teaching methodology used will allow the assimilation of knowledge elements capable of strengthening the students' analytical and cognitive skills, supporting their learning path aimed at acquiring the knowledge and methodological tools necessary to analyze, define, and assist the veterinary practitioner in addressing and solving farm-related clinical problems.

COURSE CONTENT/SYLLABUS

Frontal classes	hours
✓ Management of metabolic health and welfare and analysis of metabolic diseases	5
✓ Management of neonatal calf and heifer health and welfare and analysis of specific diseases	5
✓ Management of udder health and welfare and analysis of udder diseases	5
✓ Management of foot health and welfare and analysis of hoof diseases	5
✓ Management and analysis of diseases due to different forms of stress	3
✓ Clinical reasoning, problem-solving, and evidence-based medicine	4
✓ Presentation of clinical cases, seminars, and flipped classrooms on current international clinical topics	3
TOTALE	30

Practical sections	hours
✓ Clinical and management methodologies to counteract herd metabolic diseases	6

✓ Clinical and management methodologies to counteract herd udder diseases	7
✓ Clinical and management methodologies to counteract herd foot diseases	7
TOTALE	20

READINGS/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbooks:

- ✓ Dirksen – Grunder – Stöber - Internal Medicine and Surgery of Cattle;
- ✓ Rebhun's - Diseases of Dairy Cattle;
- ✓ Weaver - Bovine Surgery and Lameness;

Noordhuizen – Dairy Herd Health and Management.

Teaching materials presented during lectures and available on the course webpage. Internationally relevant scientific articles and reviews on current clinical topics.

TEACHING METHODS

The teacher will use a student-centered method; tutorials; Practical lessons, learning by doing method. The lessons will be supported by multimedia teaching material available to students on the teacher's website, after registering for the course. Specifically, the following activities will be carried out:

- ✓ Lectures held at the Departmental facilities
- ✓ Clinical-practical activities conducted on local farms
- ✓ Co-teaching activities and flipped classrooms
- ✓ Self-learning and team-working activities

Workload distribution:

- ✓ 60% theoretical activities (30 hours)
- ✓ 40% practical activities (20 hours, at the Improsta Agricultural Farm)

TEACHING SUPPORT TOOLS:

- ✓ PowerPoint presentations and multimedia files
- ✓ Departmental library
- ✓ Online library for specialized journals
- ✓ Lesson comprehension tests
- ✓ Practical exercises
- ✓ Instruments of the University Teaching Veterinary Hospital

EXAMINATION/EVALUATION CRITERIA

a) Exam type:

For **integrated courses**, there should be one exam.

Exam type	
written and oral	
only written	X
only oral	
project discussion	
other	

In case of a written exam, questions refer to: (*)	Multiple choice answers	X
	Open answers	
	Numerical exercises	

(*) multiple options are possible

b) Evaluation pattern:

The exam will be written, with multiple-choice questions: each question will include four options, only one of which is correct. The final grade will be calculated in a weighted manner based on the CFU credits of each module: 'Non-Infective Diseases' module (5 ECTS) 50%, 'Infectious Diseases' module (5 ECTS) 50%.

For the evaluation, the “Regulation for Guidelines_for_exams_management” approved by the Didactic Coordination Committee of the Master Degree in Precision Livestock Farming will be considered.