

Department of Animal & Poultry Science
ANSC*6710 – Assessing Animal Welfare in Practice

Course Overview

This graduate level course will review current science related to the practical assessment of animal welfare. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of approaches to understanding and assessing animal welfare in practical settings. Students will investigate the role of legislation, guidelines and standards in the development of a practical animal welfare assessment and how the goal of the assessment influences the final document. They will review a wide variety of animal-based welfare measures and through field trials, learn the pitfalls in the validity and reliability of some of these measures.

Course Objectives

To learn how to develop an appropriate animal welfare assessment.

Method of Course Presentation

Topics will be presented using traditional seminar format. There will be some formal lectures by the instructor, but a major part of the seminars will be spent in discussion and debate. There will also be one field trip to a local animal facility.

Instructor

Penny Lawlis cell: 226-688-7878 pclawlis@gmail.com

Seminar Schedule

Mondays 11.30 – 2.20 pm

Method of Evaluation

<u>Seminar</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Mark</u>
January 20	<p>Students lead the seminar by giving a presentation comparing and contrasting different codes of practice, regulations or standards for their particular species.</p> <p>The codes of practice etc. that the students will present will be the basis for the culminating activity i.e., the development of an animal care assessment. For example, a student may decide to focus on dairy cows and dairy welfare assessment.</p> <p>The presentation should involve at least three documents – if three documents (i.e, two dairy codes of practice – one from Canada and one from Australia and the European regulations on the keeping of dairy cows) are not available, the student should discuss this with the instructor. Students need to select a species with enough published information to base the assessment on.</p> <p>The presentation should be about 10 – 12 minutes long including time for discussion. Presentation must be analysis of the documents – similarities, differences, types of language used, focus of standards etc.</p> <p>15 marks including 5 peer marks.</p>	15%
February 3	<p>Students present a critique of a welfare assessment program</p> <p>Students will provide a comprehensive overview of an assessment program – the assessment program should be the same species as for the first activity and the culminating activity. For example, the student will provide a critique of the dairy welfare assessment from the US and provide details, measures, pros and cons.</p> <p>The presentation should be approximately 10 – 12 minutes in length.</p> <p>20 marks including 5 peer marks.</p>	20%
March 2	<p>Students report results of inter-observer reliability trials conducted at a farm.</p> <p>Students will be required to complete data analysis and to provide a report structured as an academic poster.</p>	20%
March 20, 27 and April 3.	<p>Students present a welfare assessment/audit they developed followed by a class question and discussion period.</p> <p>Students will use the research done throughout the course to design a practical animal welfare assessment protocol, including a check list that could be used by auditors/assessors in the field. The written report should include the referenced assessments, guidelines, codes of practice etc. (15 marks for the presentation + 15 marks for the written).</p>	30%
	Class participation	15%
	Total	100%