

HERD HEALTH

Study Programme: MIMV Curricular Year 5th Semester 10th Compulsory Credits: 4.5 ECTS

Lecturer(s): Fernando Boinas (CCP & R), José Meireles, JJ Alfaro Cardoso, JJ Sousa Nunes & J. Ricardo Bexiga

1. Contact hours:

Lectures 26 Other Practicals 24 Field Work 8 Total 58

2. Objectives:

To integrate knowledge developed on previous subjects related with livestock species of economic interest in order to design and to implement strategies of preventive veterinary medicine in production diseases and application of official sanitary policy strategies for the prevention, control and eradication of notifiable diseases. To improve student skills on the identification and correction of critical points affecting the biosecurity of the livestock unit (cattle, small ruminants, swine, poultry, rabbits, bees and fish farming) in order to contribute for the productivity, profitability, animal welfare and reduction of the zoonotic risk.

3. Programme:

Theoretical:

Herd Health management and economical methodologies based upon farm records and production targets. Preventive measures to implement in each relevant production system, integrating, namely, strategies of sanitary management, biosecurity and vaccination. Economical models to produce cost-benefit analysis of alternative measures as aids for the process of sanitary decision.

Practical:

Case studies of the main national livestock production systems. The use of informatics software to calculate the main productive / reproductive indicators, interpretation of data, identifying the main shortcomings of production, listing of corrective sanitary measures and establishing targets that will consolidate the economic viability of the enterprises. Due to the multifactorial nature of many problems, complex *cases* will be selected because they reinforce the need towards an integrated approach in decision making. Vaccination and deworming schemes will be discussed according to age group, production type, reproduction calendar and the *financial health* of the farm.

4. Bibliography:

Documents made by the teaching staff and provided on the Moodle platform

Radostits, O.M., Gay, C.C., Diplomate, H., Hinchcliff, K.W. & Constable, P.D. (2007). *Veterinary Medicine*. Saunders-Elsevier.

Radostits, O.M (2001). *Herd Health Food Animal Production Medicine*, 3rd Ed. Saunders-Elsevier.

5. Assessment:

The students' knowledge is evaluated at the end of the term with a written examination including theoretical and practical subjects. There can be a maximum increase of up to 1.5 points in the final classification in the appreciation of the two reports made on themes developed during the field work in poultry and swine herds.