

HERD HEALTH

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

Lecturer(s): Fernando Boinas (CCP & R), Tiago Grosso, Manuel Joaquim, José Meireles, Fernando Afonso, & J. Ricardo Bexiga

1. Contact hours: Lectures - 26; Practical - 24; Field - 8

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 animal health 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

Books:

Veterinary Medicine: A textbook of the Diseases of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Pigs and Goats (2016). 11th Edition. Constable, P.D. et al. (Eds). Saunders Elsevier.

The Merck Veterinary Manual (2016). 11a Ed. S.E. Aiello and M.A. Moses (Eds.). Wiley

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

Biosecurity in Animal Production and Veterinary Medicine (2020) Filip van Immerseel and Jeroen Dewulf (Eds) CABI Publishing

Animal Health Economics: An Introduction (2015) Jonathan A. Rushton (Ed) CABI Publishing

Certified internet sources

5. Assessment:

The students' knowledge is evaluated at the end of the term with a written examination including theoretical and practical subjects. A maximum of 1.0 point can be added to the final grade based on the evaluation of two mini-presentations on the topics of poultry and swine herd health.