

Principles of Livestock Production

Overview

This module will enable you to understand how feeding, breeding, management and interaction with the environment influence animal production and disease.

Subject areas: general principles of nutrition; specialised areas of nutrition (students will select three of the following options which must include at least one ruminant and one non-ruminant choice: feeding dairy cows; feeding dual-purpose, beef and draught cattle; feeding sheep and goats; pig nutrition; poultry nutrition; nutrition of horses, camelids and rabbits.

In all the above cases, consideration will be given to the different resources available in temperate and tropical/subtropical regions); environmental studies, including climatic effects and housing; genetics; the physiology of growth and lactation; the relevance of reproduction to livestock production.

Welcome to the course

Principles of Livestock Production forms a core module of the Livestock Health and Production programme. It may also be studied as a 240-hour individual module.

The production of foods of animal origin is, by nature, a business enterprise. As with all businesses, production must be profitable for the owner. A balance needs to be achieved between making a profit and providing the animals with a healthy environment and adequate feeding for their requirements.

Animals that are well fed, healthy and kept under optimum conditions will always be more productive than those poorly or inappropriately fed, ill and housed in a poor environment.

It should be the aim of all concerned with animal health and production to provide the 'best' environment and management of the livestock that produce our food, within the economic constraints of the farming enterprise.

In this course we aim to provide you with the information necessary to assist livestock producers in obtaining optimum outputs while maintaining the animal's health and comfort.

Course structure

The course is divided into five modules.

The first two modules deal with nutrition, the first considering the general principles of nutrition, while the second will consist of the three species options that you have selected to study.

The third module will look at the effect of environment and housing on livestock health and production. It will provide information on the optimum requirements for livestock under different housing conditions.

The fourth module in this course will look at genetics in relation to livestock production.

The final module will look at the physiology of growth and lactation and the importance of reproductive performance in livestock.