

*Dairy Industry in the US and Netherlands*

**Animal Sciences 494/Animal Sciences 697.04**

**GEC Category 4. Diversity; (2) International Issues, Western (non-United States)**

**I. Goals and Objectives:**

A. The proposed *Dairy Industry in the United States and Netherlands (ANIM SCI 494/ANIM SCI 697.05)* courses meet the **Goals** of the Diversity (International Issues, Western [non-United States]) GEC category as follows:

Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive and principled citizens of their nation and an increasingly globalized world:

- Dairy Industry in the United States and Netherlands is designed to equip a broad range of students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills required to be productive global citizens and prepare them to address questions concerning how a marketing system and regulatory standards affect a food producing sector.
- Students will be introduced to the historical, social, cultural, economic, and legal frameworks within which current farming practices have evolved in the United States and compare these frameworks with those of a European culture.
- Students will consider the cultural nature of family structure in the Netherlands and relate this to the US and how this has affected movement of Dutch families into new communities in North America.

B. The proposed *Dairy Industry in the United States and Netherlands (ANIM SCI 494/ANIM SCI 697.05)* courses fulfill the **Learning Objectives** of the Diversity (International Issues, Western [non-United States]) GEC category as follows:

1. Students will learn and exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, peoples, and cultures outside the US.

- Students will develop an understanding of how different cultures and complex demographics can impact and mold beliefs, traditions, and production systems within and among various global regions.
- Students will compare the food production systems, their contribution to the economy, and the forces affecting the organizational structure and management practices in the dairy industries within the Netherlands and the US.

2. Students will be able to describe, analyze and critically evaluate the roles of categories such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, national origin and religion as they relate to international institutions, issues, cultures and citizenship.

- Students will compare the history, geography, and infrastructure of associated animal industries in a European culture with those in the United States, and will gain an appreciation of the resulting impact of history, geography, and infrastructure on the role animals play in the respective cultures.

3) Students will recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

- Students will experience the beliefs and views of a European culture on the care and handling of dairy cattle, protection of the environment, and the merchandizing of dairy products, and compare these European beliefs and practices with their own attitudes and values, and the practices in the US.

### C. Overview:

The European Union countries function under a milk quota system for marketing of milk and have developed strict environmental policies. The Netherlands is rich in history for dairy farming and the manufacture of dairy products. Because of land prices and limitations on expanding dairy enterprises, many Dutch farmers have relocated to North America, including Ohio, to engage in dairy farming. Their movement into North American communities has given rise to conflicts about small versus large farms, struggles for acceptance of Dutch families within certain communities but not others, adjustments by families to the social structure in communities and the school systems, and adjustments to operating a dairy farm within a different (free market) enterprise system. These aspects will be explored within Ohio and The Netherlands.

In this course, students will gain an appreciation of these issues as individuals, but will, through discussion groups, field trips, guest speakers, and a direct interaction with a European culture via a study abroad opportunity, learn to also consider these issues in the context of community.

## II. Assessment Plan

Our goal is that students who satisfactorily complete this course will be knowledgeable, skilled, reflective, and compassionate. Students will be familiar with the historical, social, economic, cultural, and political contexts within which the production of food, specifically milk and milk products, occur in the United States, and compare these to a European system. They will have the opportunity, through this course, to gain an appreciation of the complexity of marketing systems and adjusting to changes within these systems. They will also gain an appreciation for the adjustment to new social frameworks by their stay in the Netherlands and by visiting with Dutch families who have moved to the US.

Assessment will include students' knowledge and ability to integrate that knowledge in problem solving. Through the use of a quiz, evaluative writing assignments, and a final exam, the instructor will be able to evaluate students' progress toward the goals outlined above and will adjust teaching tools and methods as needed during the course. Adjustments will be made as indicated by these sources of assessment to improve comprehension and achievement of the learning objectives. Finally, the course content will be assessed before each offering to validate that it is current and applicable to the goals outlined above.

## **1. Student Assessment:**

- Students will be assessed of their understanding of the importance of differences in the economic, cultural, and environmental systems have on food production and marketing via course assignments in ANIM SCI 494, in combination with those in ANIM SCI 697.04 (Dairy Industry Outside the US). This course combination provides students the opportunity to expand their understanding of the role that a food production system has in shaping society, culture, economics, and food consumption within the U.S. and the Netherlands. Students will maintain a travel log of their observations and impressions during tour stops visited while traveling abroad (assignment listed in ANIM SCI 697.04 syllabus). This travel log and the writing assignment from ANIM SCI 494 will be integrated to develop the final reflection paper assignment in ANIM SCI 697.04, which the instructors will evaluate to determine the degree to which students exhibit understanding of the different cultures and complex demographics that impact and mold beliefs, traditions, and production systems within and among various global regions.
- Students will be assessed for comprehension and application of the information base of the material through a quiz and exam. Multiple choice and short answer questions will be used to evaluate students' understanding of the material and their ability to apply it to current issues.
- Students will be assessed for their ability to evaluate contemporary issues relating to the course content through assigned readings and locating media releases relative to the course content.
- Students will be evaluated for the comprehension of the structures and forces affecting the dairy industry and farming families in the US and The Netherlands. After returning from the Study Abroad portion of the course, students will expected to prepare a final reflection paper to integrate their understanding of the differences in the culture and dairy industry between the US and The Netherlands.

## **2. Course Instructor Assessment:**

Through utilization of the University Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) instrument, the instructor will be evaluated on an ongoing basis to assure that goals of the course are met and that educational pedagogy is implemented.

## **3. Course Assessment:**

By its nature, the content of this course will require ongoing evaluation and updates to keep current with the issues and social context of changes in the economy, regulations, marketing system, and movement of families engaged in dairy farming. The field trip locations and guest speakers will be evaluated regularly. Students will be surveyed as to their impressions and relevance of the field trips and international experience. In addition, a comprehensive survey of the international component of the course is provided by the Office of International Education.