



UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALY



Dairy Cattle Management



Department of Animal Science



Operational Programme
Human Resources Development,
Education and Lifelong Learning
Co-financed by Greece and the European Union



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Program Overview

Milk and dairy products are essential food elements of western culture and main components of a healthy, Mediterranean diet. Consequently, the European Union (EU) is the leading force in world's cattle milk production, while dairy cows are farmed in a large variety of methods, landscapes, and climates. However, it is common that dairy cattle farming is moving towards more intensive, specialized, professionalized farming systems.

Within this concept, the dairy sector is facing important challenges driven by different social needs, including the provision of healthy products, improvement of animal welfare, mitigation of environmental impact, and implementation of technology. These challenges have been answered by the scientific community and the dairy industry developing new management strategies in the fields of nutrition, reproduction, genetic improvement, and health. Thus, it is generated the need not only to continue, through research and innovation, to develop more strategies but also to supply the dairy and relative industries with high qualified scientific personnel. This need wishes to cover the current MSc program in Dairy Cattle Management.

The key objectives of the Program are:

The strengthening and promotion of knowledge in the field of Animal Sciences, but also in related scientific areas, such as Agricultural, Food and Veterinary Sciences.

The specialization of the graduates of the Department of other universities in the acquisition and application of knowledge regarding the holistic management of dairy cows, with an emphasis on the management of nutrition, reproduction, genetic improvement, health, as well as the application of new technologies.

The preparation of specialized and capable executives for employment in public and private sector bodies that will promote the development of cattle farming and the economy in general.

The preparation of young scientists and researchers for doctoral level studies, both at the University of Thessaly and other Universities in Greece or abroad.

Through this English-speaking post-graduate study program, we aim to train animal scientists, veterinarians, or graduates of other relevant disciplines in nutrition, reproduction, genetic improvement, health management and application of new technologies in dairy cattle farming.

As this is a very selective study, the maximum number of admissions is twenty-two (22) people. The interviews will take place every August.



Why Should I Study for an MSc in Dairy Cattle Management?



Studying for an MSc in Dairy Cattle Management can provide you with a comprehensive and valuable educational experience in the field of dairy farming. With a curriculum designed to cover both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, this program offers numerous benefits for individuals interested in the dairy industry.

First and foremost, the University of Thessaly is renowned for its expertise in agricultural sciences and has a strong focus on animal production. As such, pursuing your MSc in Dairy Cattle Management at this institution ensures that you will be taught by experienced faculty members who are leaders in the field. Their vast knowledge and practical experience will provide you with insights into the latest advancements in dairy cattle management, enabling you to develop a deep understanding of the subject matter.

Furthermore, the program's curriculum is designed to equip students with a holistic understanding of dairy cattle management. You will gain comprehensive knowledge in areas such as genetics, nutrition, reproduction, health management, and farm economics. By studying these diverse aspects, you will develop the ability to make informed decisions and implement effective strategies to optimize the productivity, health, and welfare of dairy cattle.

The University of Thessaly offers excellent facilities for practical training and research, including modern laboratories, research farms, and partnerships with industry stakeholders. This provides you with ample opportunities to engage in hands-on experiences, conduct research projects, and collaborate with industry professionals. Such practical exposure will not only enhance your learning but also strengthen your problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities.

Moreover, studying at the University of Thessaly offers networking opportunities with fellow students, faculty, and industry experts. The university actively fosters collaborations with dairy farmers, organizations, and research institutes, providing you with a platform to establish valuable connections within the dairy industry. These networks can prove instrumental in securing internships, job opportunities, and further research collaborations.

Lastly, the University of Thessaly is located in a region with a rich agricultural heritage, including a strong presence of dairy farming.

This advantage allows you to engage with local dairy farms, visit successful operations, and gain exposure to different management practices. Such firsthand experiences provide a well-rounded education and allow you to apply classroom knowledge in real-world scenarios.

The program's strong faculty, diverse curriculum, practical training opportunities, networking prospects, and advantageous location make it an ideal choice for individuals seeking a successful career in dairy cattle management.





Diversity

An international environment with students from over 24 different countries throughout all 6 continents.

Teacher Expertise

High quality teaching in a truly international environment and by renowned experts of the field.

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Why The University of Thessaly?

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Travel

Study abroad period through the European Erasmus+ program (the University currently has more than 600 Erasmus Bilateral Agreements with more than 40 different countries).

Rankings

The University of Thessaly has significantly advanced itself in the recent past. It now ranks in the top 800 Universities internationally, according to World University Rankings, one of the best-known university ranking lists in the world.

Career Office Support

Education is much more than obtaining a degree. It's also about preparing for a successful professional career, and the Career Office of the University of Thessaly is here to help our students make that goal a reality. The office also aims to connect our students with schools, alumni associations, and businesses to achieve a successful career.

International Student Support

The newly formed Office of Global Services aims to assist international students by easing the transition into student life and community building, so that they can start building a network of their own. From orientation programs to providing information regarding immigration and government regulations, this office is dedicated helping international students with a variety of issues, including non-academic matters such as adjusting to their unique environment.

Financial Assistance

As we understand that any international study program costs, we make every effort to assist those in need. From free meals and dinners offered at the Department's restaurant, to potential scholarships to some students based on their merit or background, our Department and the University in general aim to alleviate any financial problems to make sure your focus is on your studies and future growth.

Scholarship Excellence Scholarships are provided:

- A. One (1) scholarship to the student who will complete the highest grade (at least 8.00) in the 1st semester, which is equivalent to a 50% exemption of tuition fees, i.e. a value of €1,900.
- B. One (1) scholarship to the student who will complete the highest grade (at least 8.00) in the 2nd semester, which is equivalent to a 50% exemption of tuition fees, i.e. a value of €1,900.

Student Life & the Extended Community



Our Campus: Larissa

Larissa is one of the largest Greek cities with a population of about 145,000 inhabitants. Its name is pre-Hellenic of Pelasgian origin and means a fortified hill or citadel. It is an important shopping center, communications and transportation hub and is famous for its agricultural production as it is located in the Thessalian plain. The emblem of Larissa is the Horse of the Thessalian plain, which traditionally supported all agricultural work. The famous Alcazar Park is an important green lung for the city and its inhabitants. Viopolis and Gaiopolis are the two university campuses of Larissa with more than 12,000 students.

What does the surrounding areas of Thessaly Offer?

Beautiful Beaches: Magnesia & Sporades Islands

The beaches in the wider area of Volos and the exquisite Sporades Islands (Alonissos, Skopelos or Skiathos) are among the best-loved in Greece. Thousands of visitors each year flock to their beaches, all of which offer stunning scenery and many recreational facilities. The coast of Magnesia has one of the mildest climates in the Mediterranean. Cool summers and exceptionally mild winters create ideal conditions for enjoying the sea during all seasons of the year.

Mountainous Travels: Pelion

Pelion is an absolute natural paradise. It is a huge mountain dotted with picturesque traditional villages and fringed by mesmerizing beaches. The gems of Pelion are, without question, its quaint villages. They are made up of traditional little houses with grey stone roofs and paved alleys that ooze charm in abundance. This paradise is also full of drinking fountains, plane and apple trees, oaks, gardenias, hydrangeas, and camellias.

Student Life & the Extended Community



Archaeological Wonders: Meteora

Meteora is certainly one of the most impressive regions of the country. Located north of Trikala, this spectacular place is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1989 and an official holy place for Greece since 1995. The famous monasteries date back to the Byzantine era, and they lie on the top of massive rock formations. Interesting fact: the breathtaking natural landscape was shaped approximately 60 million years ago.

Amazing Scenery & Forestry: Lake Plastiras

Lake Plastiras is surrounded by an idyllic landscape of incomparable natural beauty that captivates the mind at first sight. The stunning blue lake is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and verdant pine forests, captivating visitors at any time of the year. Dreamlike in all aspects, it is one of the largest artificial lakes in Greece created in a location where in antiquity we could find the confluence of the rivers Tavropos and Achelous.

Degree Program Details

The language of all courses as well as the preparation of the diploma thesis is English. During their studies, postgraduate students are required to attend postgraduate courses, participate in all educational and research activities, and prepare a postgraduate thesis. The Study Program is completed by attending 60 credits (ECTS) and a minimum duration of two academic semesters, the successful completion of which leads to level seven of the National and European Qualifications Framework.

Each course corresponds to five credits (ECTS) and each student is required to attend a total of six courses. The courses are taught in three cycles of five teaching weeks in the first semester of studies. In each cycle, two lessons are taught, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. In the second semester of studies, postgraduate students are required to conduct their research thesis to complete the required credits.

Finally, the research papers of each cycle are presented at a central event in the third week of September. At that point, the program is concluded.

Part-time students are required to register for one course in each course cycle during the first and second year of study, and in the 2nd and 4th semester to complete their thesis. Classes will be held throughout the week, from Monday to Friday, unless decided otherwise by a resolution of the Department Assembly. The duration of the teaching period is set at 45 minutes with a 15-minute break. Each course will take place over a period of 5 weeks and will include at least two 2-hour lectures per week (10 total lectures, 20 lecture hours) and 2 hours of practice (5 total exercises, 10 exercise hours). Courses include time for assignments, either individually or in groups, and a workload for study and preparation.

Course attendance is mandatory. For all courses, the physical presence of postgraduate students is required for at least 80% of the lectures held in each semester. Absences greater than 20% in a course result in the student failing that course. In this case, the student repeats the attendance of the course. If deemed necessary, before the start of the program, the program offers preparatory courses in some subjects in order to fill gaps and contribute to the homogeneity of the background of the students participating in the program. There will also be the possibility to participate in scientific lectures of the Department as well as in educational visits to companies, public organizations, but also domestic institutions. The courses are supported with the <https://eclass.uth.gr> platform of the University of Thessaly, as well as the educational material provided. Teaching and exams are done in English, while the bibliography and articles cover international sources.

The commencement of the courses usually takes place in the first week of October for the 1st semester of studies. Exams are held immediately after the last week of each course, as previously described. Overall the proposed program includes 6 compulsory courses, the successful completion of which is necessary to obtain the Graduate Diploma.



Curriculum Details

First Semester

A/A	Code	Course	Hours	ECTS	PROFESSORS
1	101	Scientific and Social Approach of Animal Production	4T 2P	5	GIANNOULIS, MALISSIOVA KANTAS, FOSKOLOS
2	102	Elements of Reproduction and Disease Prevention	4T 2P	5	AMOIRIDIS, NTOVOLOU, SPIROU, VASILEIOU
3	103	Dairy Cattle Nutrition	4T 2P	5	FOSKOLOS, KANTAS, TZIMAS
4	104	Statistical Analysis and Experimental Design	4T 2P	5	KANTAS, GIANNOULIS, FOSKOLOS
5	105	Management of Replacement Heifers	4T 2P	5	FOSKOLOS, AMOIRIDIS, GIANNOULIS
6	106	Management of Dairy Cows	4T 2P	5	FOSKOLOS, NTOVOLOU, AMOIRIDIS, GIANNOULIS
		Total Teaching Hours & ECTS (T = Theory & P = Practice)	252	30	

Second Semester

A/A	Code	Course	ECTS
1	107	Research Thesis	30

How to Reach Out

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