

Graduate module

Title: Pasture management for healthy ecosystems

Instructor: Dr. Nancy McLean

Introduction: Pasture use and management have gained renewed interest due to claims of reduced costs to livestock producers, higher quality animal products and improved condition of ecosystems. Healthy pasture ecosystems, however, require careful pasture management which needs to be tailored to particular farm circumstances. The module will examine different methods used to assess pasture health. The module will also include discussions centered on the effects of various pasture management methods/decisions on components of the ecosystem including animals, plants, microbes, soil, water and air. Three different pastures will be toured and evaluated.

Offered: June – July 2010, five weekly half-day sessions, dates and times chosen in consultation with students

Format: combination of classroom and field instruction and discussions

Evaluations: Discussion of assigned reading material: 25%
Presentation on the studied pastures with suggestions for improving pasture health: 25%.
Written proposal for pasture-based research based on the NSDA Technology Development format: 50%

Pre-requisites: Admission to the graduate program and Permission of the instructor.