University of Pretoria Yearbook 2019

Advanced pasture science 450 (WDE 450)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	15.00
Programmes	BScAgric Animal Science
	BScAgric Applied Plant and Soil Sciences
Prerequisites	WDE 320
Contact time	2 lectures per week, 3 practicals per week
Language of tuition	Separate classes for Afrikaans and English
Department	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The production potential and quality of pastures as influenced by botanical composition, vegetation cover, livestock grazing and browsing potential, soil chemical, physical and biological conditions in addition to other important environmental processes are addressed. Pasture selection for different purposes and the importance of pasture management requirements within a planned livestock fodder flow system are taught. Monitoring pastures (both natural and cultivated) in different biomes of Southern Africa, through different assessment techniques to understand the health, production potential and quality thereof is explained. The different utilisation methods of pastures, as influenced by the livestock factor and their effects on the pastures regrowth potential, in addition to soil quality aspects are important principles that determine the value of pastures. The evaluation of grasses and other vegetation types in terms of adaptation, acceptability and adaptability to environmental and management conditions are important to an integrated and adaptive pasture and livestock production system.