Dairy Nutrition Certification

• There is a need for a certification process for professionals working in the field providing nutritional services to producers and others.

• The American Registry of Professional Animal Science has established a new category of certification for dairy nutrition.

• Initial qualifications will include ARPAS membership at the PAS or RAS levels.

• Nutritional certification will include the additional title – Dairy Nutrition.

• Requirements:
  o Be a current ARPAS member – PAS or RAS
  o Pass the Dairy Nutrition Exam
  o Maintain yearly continuing education credits – 16 hours total with at least 8 hours devoted to dairy nutrition.

• Benefits:
  o Enhanced credentials.
  o Demonstrates higher level of competence in dairy nutrition.
  o Further the professionalism of ARPAS members involved in dairy nutrition.
  o The Dairy Nutrition Exam is a more in-depth, rigorous examination geared specifically to test up-to-date knowledge of basic and applied dairy nutrition.
  o Further assure clientele of competence in dairy nutrition.

• The Exam
  o The exam consists of 150 multiple choice, true/false, or matching questions.
  o The non-refundable cost of the exam is $100.00. This fee will cover a second examination if the exam is not passed on the first try. The second exam, if necessary, will not be given sooner than 90 days or longer than one year after the first exam.
  o An ARPAS member who either has passed the dairy nutrition exam, or who will not be taking the dairy nutrition exam within 2 years of administering an exam must administer the exam.
  o A basic function calculator is recommended during the exam.

• What the exam covers
  o Basic and applied aspects of dairy cattle nutrition.
  o Current knowledge on requirements of dairy cattle, including lactating cows, dry cows, calves and heifers. (See Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle, 2001, 7th Revised Ed., National Academy Press. Washington D.C.)
  o The exam contains questions on protein, carbohydrates, energy, minerals, vitamins, and special aspects of dairy cattle feeding and nutrition.

• Example Questions:
  1) ________ is required for the ruminal synthesis of vitamin B12 and comprises part of vitamin B12
     a. Zinc
     b. Copper
     c. Cobalt
     d. Iodine
  2) In the 2001 NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle, energy content of feeds is
     a. a tabular value
     b. calculated using a similar equation for all feeds
     c. calculated based on chemical composition and animal variables
     d. based on TDN values
  3) The target urine pH for close-up dry Holstein cows, fed a negative DCAD diet is:
     a. 5.2-5.5
     b. 6.2-6.5
     c. 6.8-7.2
     d. 7.5-8.0
  4) T  F "All milk, milk replacer" refers to the protein and fat sources used in manufacturing the milk replacer.
  5) Of the following grains, which has the fastest rate of degradation in the rumen?
     a. Wheat
     b. Corn
     c. Sorghum
     d. Milo
  6) T  F Passage rate can be measured by the in situ method
  7) When DMI is 4% of body weight, feed rumen undegradable protein (RUP) values will be ________ compared to when DMI is 2% of body weight.
     a. Higher
     b. Lower
     c. The same
ARPAS is the organization which provides certification of professionals working in animal agriculture through (1) competency based examination, (2) continuing education, and (3) commitment to a code of ethics. It is recognized that ARPAS is affiliated with five animal science societies: American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), Poultry Science Association (PSA), American Meat Science Association (AMSA) and Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society (ENPS) for the purpose of providing a credentialing organization.

Whom can I contact for more information about ARPAS or to become certified in Animal Nutrition?

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