

MODULE 11

Pasture management

MANAGER MODULE



Veld and cultivated pastures can play complementary roles in providing fodder to livestock on dairy farms and, therefore, it is essential that students learn how to integrate the two. Pasture can be a cost-effective option for feed and should be incorporated into the farming system. This course covers grazing principles that form part of fodder flow programmes as well as the nutritional value of green pastures. Where pastures do not meet the roughage and nutritional needs of dairy cows, supplementary feeding needs to be provided. Students will be taught about certain health risks, metabolic disturbances and feeding imbalances that are related to pasture-based feeding. It is important for students to be able to identify and understand these health risks in order to minimise their effect. Nutritional imbalances, internal parasites, plant poisonings, mycotoxicoses, and water quality all form part of these risks.

NQF Level 5



Knowledge

- Introduction to the concepts of cultivated pastures on South African dairy farms
- Pastures and farm planning
- Pastures and fodder flow
- Principles of grazing management
- Nutritional value of green pastures
- Health risks of dairy cattle on pastures



Practical skills

- Assess natural resources
- Develop physical aspects of pasture establishment
- Establish and maintain pastures
- Plan fodder flow and grazing programmes
- Manage nutrition of dairy animals on pastures
- Manage health risks of dairy cattle on pastures



Work experience

- Assist with and observe pasture management on a dairy farm for two weeks
- Perform pasture management activities on a dairy farm under supervision for one month
- Manage pastures on a dairy farm under normal supervisory and managerial conditions for one month

