

Dear participant,

This year's course on Advanced Quantitative Methods in Herd Management starts off on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 13:00 in Room A102, Grønnegårdsvej 2. As you know from the course description, the course is in English.

The course has a home page which is used intensively during the course. The address is <http://www.prodstyr.ihh.kvl.dk/vp/> (a link is also provided in Absalon). Most of the course material will be distributed in PDF format through the home page. The most important link on the home page is "Course plan 2017", which directs you to a very detailed plan for the course in the form of a list of lessons. For each lesson, a link to an outline of the lecture is provided. The outline also contains links to course literature, slides (when available), software, supplementary literature etc.

Most days lectures will alternate with theoretical exercises and, in particular, computer exercises.

The computer exercises will be done on **your own laptop computers**. Those of you who have a laptop computer are strongly encouraged to bring it with you to teaching sessions. (Working together two by two sharing one computer will be fine as well).

On the home page you will find a link to a page describing the software used in the course. It is important that you have Excel installed on your computer right from start. We will use Excel already in the first week. We will also frequently use the R system (sometimes you can use Excel or R as you prefer). Other software programs mentioned on the page may be installed when needed. If you have another spreadsheet system than Excel installed on your computer it is probably fine as long as it is able to read Excel files (and perform linear programming).

Most of the course literature is included in the textbook "Herd Management Science" in two volumes "I. Basic concepts" and "II. Advanced topics". A third volume contains exercises and supplementary reading. The books can be bought at the faculty book store – refer to <http://www.prodstyr.ihh.kvl.dk/vp/2017/book.htm> for further details. The books are also available as PDF files from the course home page.

Other kinds of material used in the course include original journal articles and (for some topics) copies of selected chapters from general textbooks. If you choose to print the material you must take into account that the contents may change according to the following guiding deadlines:

- Original journal articles: Will not change at all.
- Outlines of lectures: May be changed until a week before the lecture.
- Outlines of exercises: May be changed until 2 days before the event.
- Slides: May be changed at any time before the lecture (probably only minor changes).

It is entirely up to each individual student to decide what to print and bring with you to a given lecture. For the first day (Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>) my **recommendation** is to bring the following materials with you:

- The textbook: “Herd Management Science” Vol. I.
- The collection of exercises: “Herd Management Science. Exercises and supplementary reading.”
- Slides if you wish so (may also be printed from the course plan)

In October, the annual conference for pig production is held in Herning (central Jutland) on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. It is usually possible for students to attend the conference at a very low charge, even though you will have to pay for accommodation and meals. The conference site is only a few minutes walk from the railway station in Herning (or perhaps a car can be booked free of charge from the department). Usually, there is a full track of sessions in English on the second day.

Due to the conference, there will be no teaching on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Instead, there will be teaching on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November (even though it is in the 8<sup>th</sup> course week).

Finally, I would like to welcome all of you to the course, and I hope that we will have a successful course. In addition to me, post doc Anna Helena Stygar will be teaching in the course.

See you on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>!

Anders Ringgaard Kristensen