

Livestock management as a tool for university extension: practical experiences in the animal science course at the UFR

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Abstract. The Group of Studies, Research, Extension and Technological Innovation (GPecuária) develops and coordinates the actions of the extension project under the title "Zootechnical assistance and guidance in beef cattle farming: Livestock Management" in the university community and in the rural area, which is linked to the Animal Science Course/ICAT/UFR, aiming to bring extension workers, scholarship students and volunteers closer to the reality of production systems and regional livestock. The objective is to provide practical and technical experiences in rural properties that are partners of the project, promoting the development of professional skills and integration between the university and the countryside. The methodology adopted included face-to-face meetings, technical visits, the organization of events and participation in specialized courses. Among the activities carried out, visits to the Aurora and Talismã Farms, as well as to the Kratsch Ranch, include actions carried out by scholarship holders, such as weighing and marking calves and bulls, as well as morphological evaluation and separation of beef cattle, sanitary management and artificial insemination. Soil samples were also collected for analysis, with the purpose of guiding the fertilization of pastures. The scholarship holders and other members of the GPecuária group also organized the NutriPEC 2025 event (1st and 2nd editions), participated in Exposul 2025, and organized courses in partnership with SENAR-MT on "cattle feeding in the dry season" and "use of drones in livestock". The results demonstrate the positive impact of extension on the training of students, promoting the exchange of knowledge and strengthening professional performance. In this sense, the "Livestock Management" Extension Project is an effective initiative in the construction of applied knowledge and in the valorization of university extension.

Keywords: Cattle farming, Beef cattle, Practical training.

Contextualization and goals

The study groups operating at UFR promote extension actions that enable the development of students during their careers at the university. The GPecuária Study, Research, Extension and Technological Innovation Group has been developing and coordinating several actions in the undergraduate course in Animal Science and at UFR since 2010, whose extension project "Zootechnical assistance and guidance in beef cattle farming: Livestock Management" stands out, as it has already served several cattle breeders and has enabled experience in the field of several scholarship holders and volunteers. The objective of the project is to serve both the university community and farmers and rural producers to bring students closer to the reality of the countryside in terms of regional livestock.

Methodology

Weekly meetings were scheduled and organized by the team of extension workers (scholarship holders and volunteers) through room reservation (location, with a preestablished date and time) so that members could share ideas and suggest actions according to the demand of each partner farm. To this end, the ideas listed were discussed and debated by the group to define which action strategy would be feasible or possible to carry out, according to the schedule proposed in the project. The technical field visits at Aurora Farms and Estancia Kratsch were scheduled in agreement with the manager or technician in charge of each partner property, considering the farm's own schedule.

During each visit, the extension workers, under the guidance and supervision of the project coordinator, carried out activities aimed at

evaluating the pasture and the management in the corral of each assisted lot. These actions made it possible to start zootechnical control of the herd through the collection of data regarding the identification number of each animal and the entry of this information into electronic spreadsheets, aiming at the realization of zootechnical bookkeeping of the managed lot.

The project's scholarship holders, as well as the members of the GPecuária group, organized the 1st and 2nd editions of the "NutriPec 2025" event, aimed at producers, students and livestock professionals. The objective was to publicize the Livestock Management project and promote the dissemination of technologies and practical solutions, with proposals for strategies to increase feed efficiency, nutritional management, conservation and production of roughage feed, sanitary management and productivity of beef cattle in the breeding, rearing, fattening and finishing phases. Each edition brought together experts to discuss methods and technologies aimed at cattle supplementation and strategic data management, aiming to improve the zootechnical control of herds.

New partnerships were signed with Senar-MT to carry out three technical training courses, two on "cattle feeding in the dry season" and one on "use of drones in livestock". These training sessions aimed to improve the technical knowledge of the participants and promote more efficient practices in the field.

To meet the demands of the project, the scholarship holders took the "Zootechnical Bookkeeping" course offered online by the Brazilian Association of Zebu Breeders (ABCZ). The course was taught by the zootechnician responsible for the dissemination of technologies aimed at controlling data from animals of the Zebu breeds, contributing to the technical qualification and improvement of the zootechnical management of assisted herds.

Results and discussion

The actions carried out in 2025 were very important for the training of scholarship extension workers and volunteers of the project, whose impact on the practical training of students was significant. The first technical visit, on 03/07 at the Aurora Farm, involved management with cattle in the breeding phase. The second visit, on 03/15 at Talismã Farm, provided contact with the reality of a cattle feedlot.

The institutional presentation of the project in April 2025 promoted integration between members and new students. The NutriPEC 2025 event featured lectures on meal plans, and its second edition, 07/25, addressed topics related to production systems in the fattening phase, nutritional additives and sanitary management. The public served included undergraduate students, teachers, zootechnicians, technicians and rural producers in the region.

Notably, the visits to Estancia Kratsch included activities such as separation of young and

adult beef cattle, body evaluation and zootechnical assistance, in addition to soil collection at 15 points per pasture for chemical analysis. The SENAR and ABCZ courses complement the technical training of the members. These experiences consolidate theoretical-practical learning and promote autonomy, strengthening extension as a link between university and field.

Final considerations

The GPecuária in the coordination of the actions of the Extension Project has proven to be effective in the practical and technical training of students, bringing them closer to the productive reality and stimulating academic protagonism. The 2025 actions show the group's commitment to the collective construction of knowledge and the appreciation of university extension.

The participation of extension workers in Exposul 2025 expanded the scope of professional training. It was an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ensure better results in the field.

The performance of project scholarship holders as interns at the Horse Week, between September 16 and 20 and their technical visits to partner farms, has contributed to the technical training of each extension agent in action in the field. These actions expand the reach of the project, consolidating its relevance as a tool for social and professional transformation in animal production.

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