Production and quality evaluation of forages
BI1327, 40090.1920

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced
Course leader = Nilla Nilsdotter-Linde

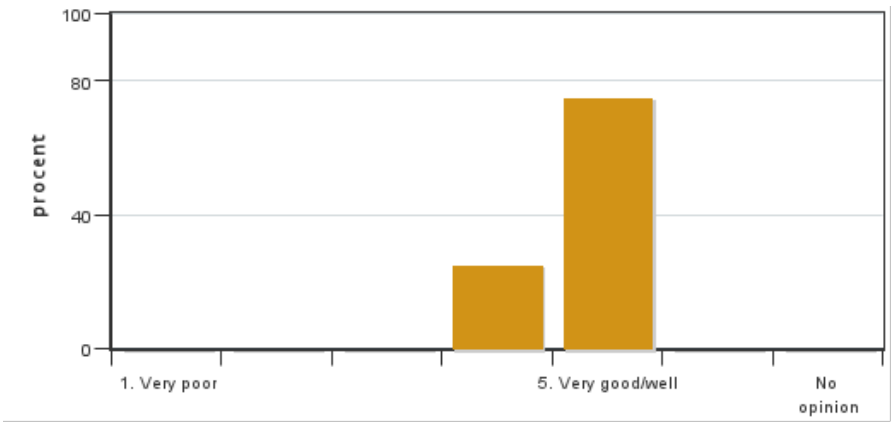
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2020-05-31 - 2020-06-24

Answers	4
Number of students	4
Answer frequency	100 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

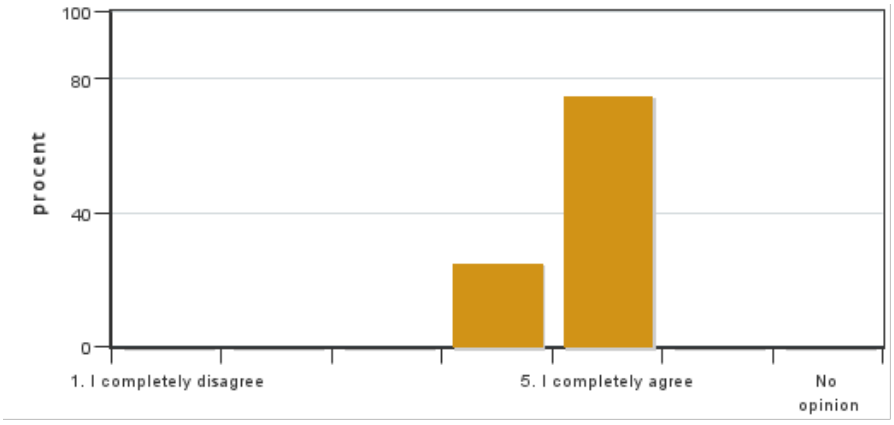


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 3

No opinion: 0

2. I found the course content to have clear links to the learning objectives of the course.

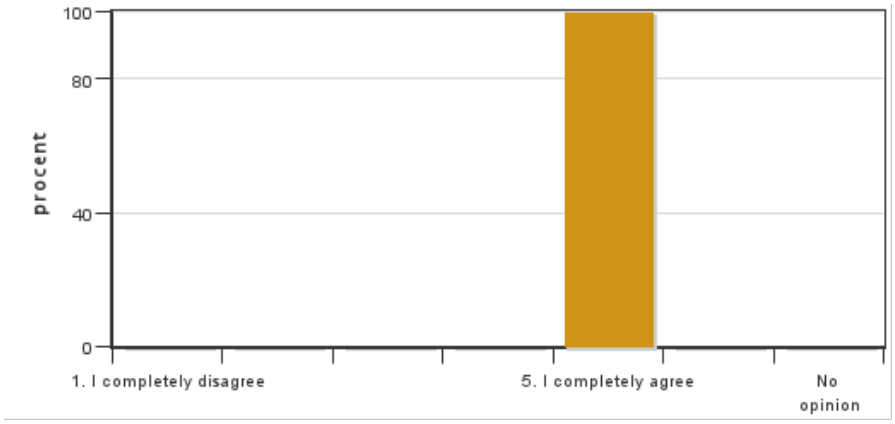


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 3

No opinion: 0

3. My prior knowledge was sufficient for me to benefit from the course.

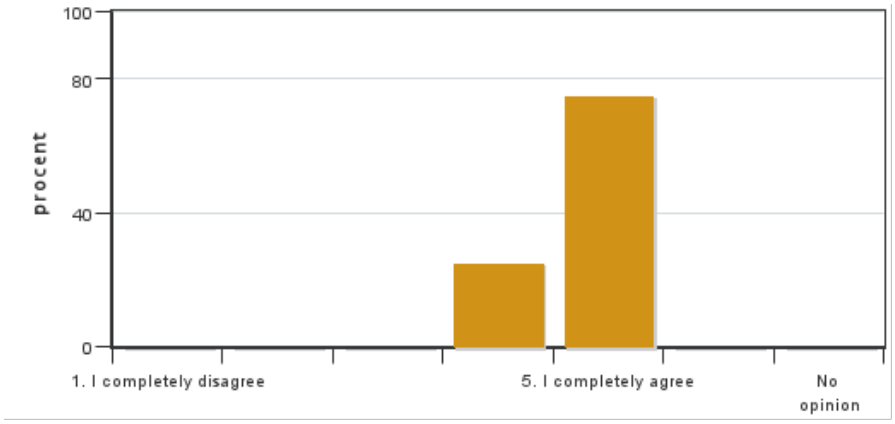


Answers: 4
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 0
5: 4

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

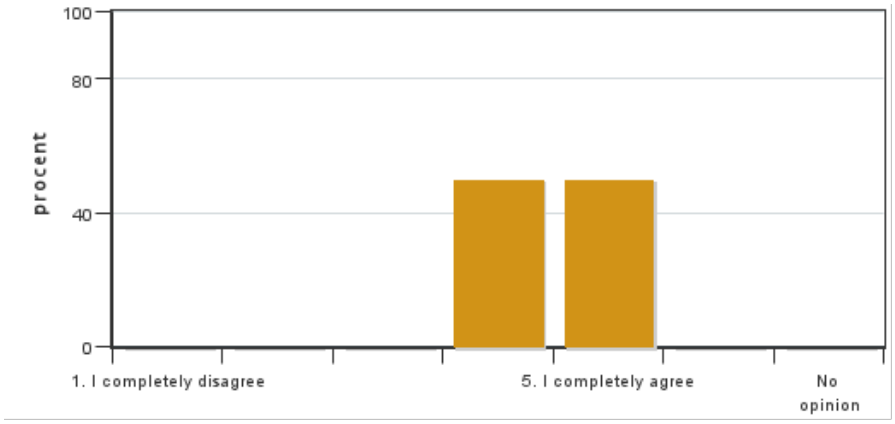


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 3

No opinion: 0

5. The various course components (lectures, course literature, exercises etc.) have supported my learning.

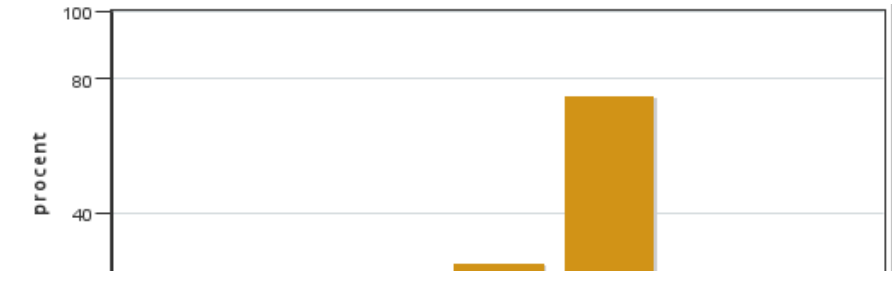


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,5
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 2
5: 2

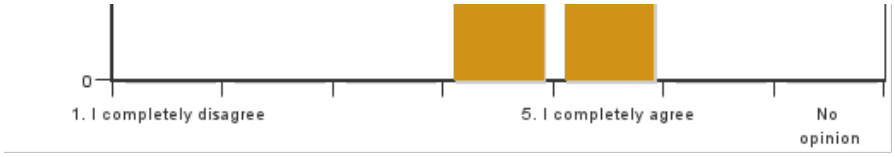
No opinion: 0

6. The social learning environment has been inclusive, respecting differences of opinion.



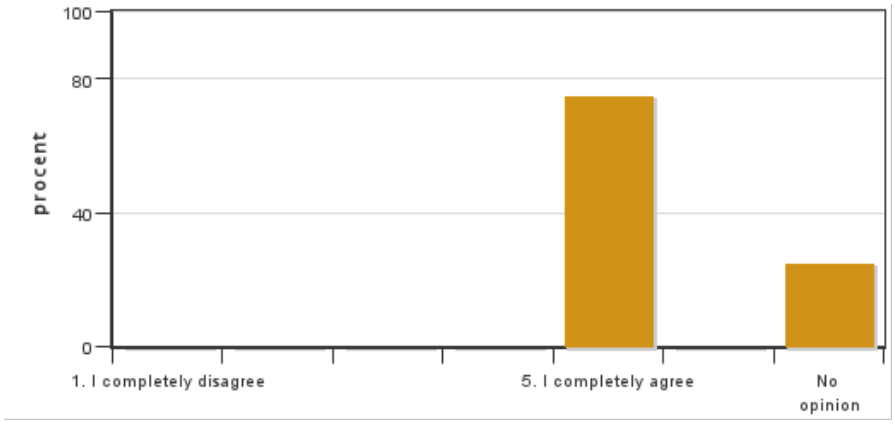
Answers: 4
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 3



No opinion: 0

7. The physical learning environment (facilities, equipment etc.) has been satisfactory.

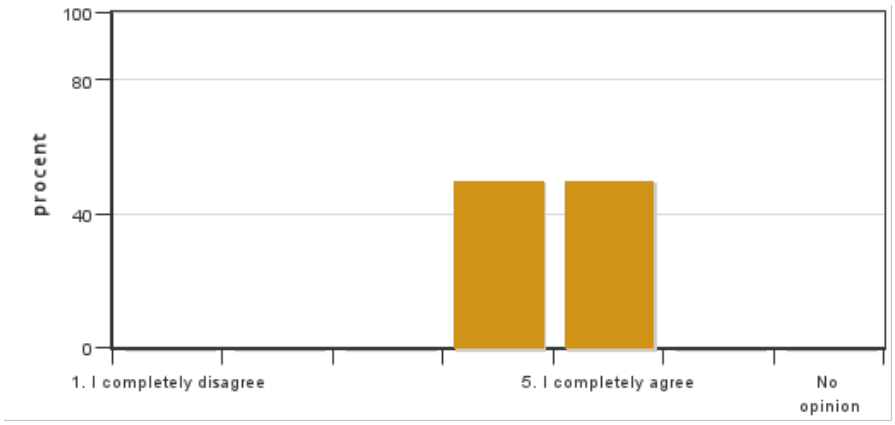


Answers: 4
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 0
5: 3

No opinion: 1

8. The examination(s) provided opportunity to demonstrate what I had learnt during the course (see the learning objectives).

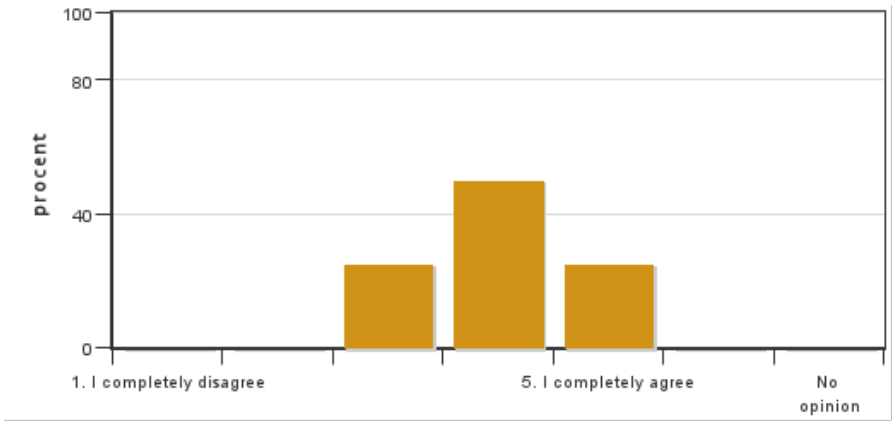


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,5
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 2
5: 2

No opinion: 0

9. The course covered the sustainable development aspect (environmental, social and/or financial sustainability).

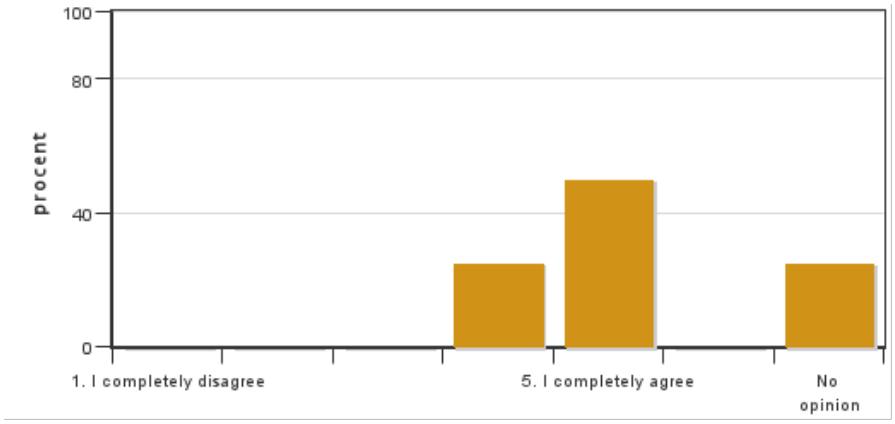


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,0
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 2
5: 1

No opinion: 0

10. I believe the course has included a gender and equality aspect, regarding content as well as teaching practices (e.g. perspective on the subject, reading list, allocation of speaking time and the use of master suppression techniques).

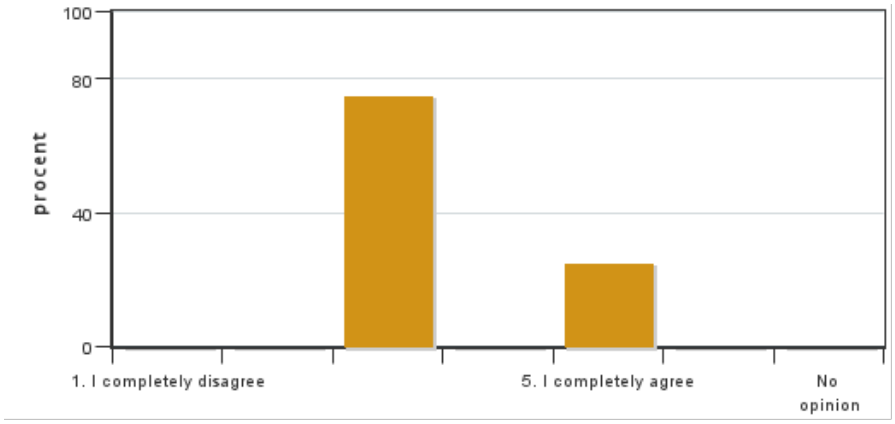


Answers: 4
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 2

No opinion: 1

11. The course covered international perspectives.

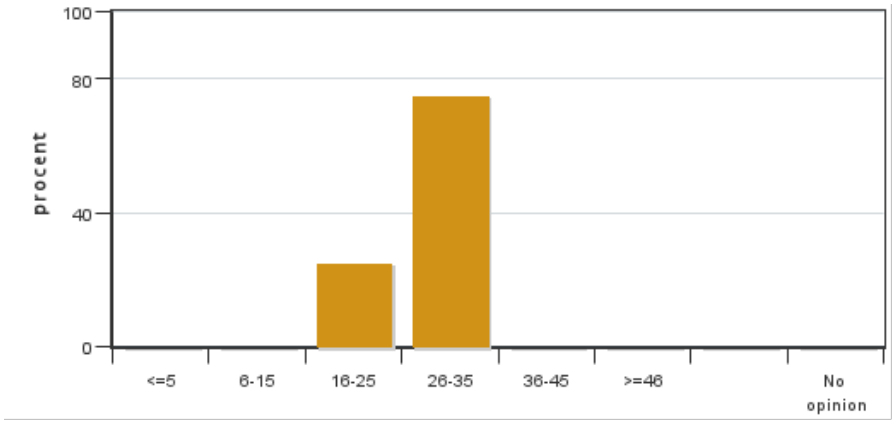


Answers: 4
Medel: 3,5
Median: 3

1: 0
2: 0
3: 3
4: 0
5: 1

No opinion: 0

12. On average, I have spent … hours/week on the course (including timetabled hours).

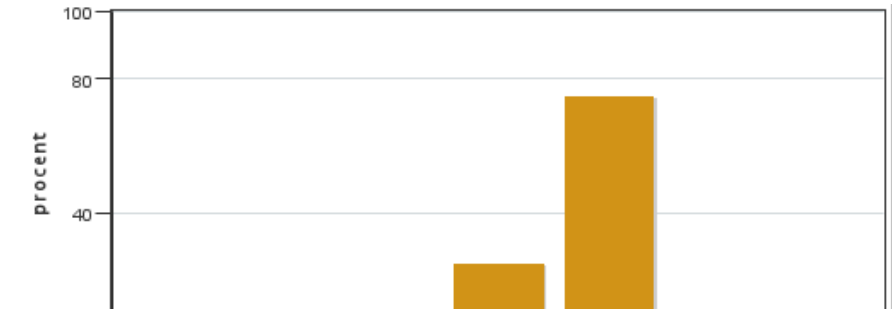


Answers: 4
Medel: 27,5
Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
6-15: 0
16-25: 1
26-35: 3
36-45: 0
≥46: 0

No opinion: 0

13. If relevant, what is your overall experience of participating in all or part of your course online?



Answers: 4
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 3

No opinion: 0

14. If relevant, please share what worked well when participating in teaching on distance

15. If relevant, please share what worked less well when participating in teaching on distance

Course leaders comments

The course was given for the first time as a 15 credits course. Four students have participated and all four have answered the course evaluation (100 %), which is great! The overall impression was 4.8 out of 5.0! Due to unfortunate crashes in the frame programme for the crop & soil students, the students had to make special arrangements to have the possibility to join this course. The participating students were very motivated to take this course, and apparently they were happy with the outcome.

The mixture of different course components were appreciated:

- the Course Book was good, even if it has a British perspective
- the Multiple Choice Tests were a good help to start reading the course literature
- the Group Assignments were appreciated, but could to some extent be a little bit revised, see below
- the Group Discussions was a good new tool for learning, activating self-studies by the students stimulated by the teachers
- the Field Excursion about winter survival was a bit similar to excursions in earlier courses, but the one about semi-natural grassland was totally new and even more interesting
- unfortunately, the Farm Excursion to an organic farm with dairy cows had to be cancelled due to the risk for COVID-19. An alternative lesson was created. It would have been even better with the actual farmer participating on ZOOM as well

About the changes been made due to COVID-19 some lessons are learned:

- ZOOM works well, most students like live lessons better than recorded as it is easier to ask questions live
- it is hard to get everybody engaged if there is a large group in a ZOOM meeting
- it is very important to have alcogel available and to keep sufficient distance when meeting on excursions etc.
- full respect must be paid to the inviting farmer when deciding if a farm visit shall be done or not
- it is questioned if ZOOM education will be social sustainable in the long run

Some recommendations will be considered when planning the next course:

- more information about differences in forage production in the north-western Europe would be appreciated
- the different background of the students animal and crop & soil background, respectively, could be better utilised in the group assignment about forage for horses. i.e. more heterogeneous groups next time
- one in-depth case-study together with animal students about creating a specific ley farming system would be very good – production levels, feed rations, hoof-health, climatic constraints, economy, grazing system, silage system etc.
- more exercises about feed budgeting and grassland management
- the lecture about feed evaluation could be given a little bit later in the course and not the first day
- some graphs were made in Swedish not translated into English, should be better next time

The overall impression from the course leader´s perspective is that this course fill an important gap between the animal and crop disciplines, also existing in the advisory service today. It is urgent to continue to give the course, and more strengths has to be done to make it easier to take the course for crop & soil students. Even more efforts will be done to market this course for students from other countries.

Student representatives comments

Production and quality evaluation of forages is a good course for you who likes to know more about forage.

The course covers all the different aspects of forage production in the form of lectures, group discussions, field trips, a report, and labs. The overall view of the course was very good with an average of 4,8 out of 5. The participants in 2020 were 4 persons with an agronomic background. The level of the course was good related to the student's prior knowledge.

Due to COVID-19, the course had to be online and some minor changes had to be done such as labs that had to be in video form and lectures online on zoom which worked well. The course was organized with reading material, quizzes, and an exam on Canvas. The lectures were live for the most part so the teachers could have discussions with the student and include them.

We, the students, appreciated one particular component that was called group discussions. The group discussions worked as a seminar but due to the small class the discussion was active, and the teachers stimulated the discussion in a good way. The social learning environment was encouraging and inclusive. The course leaves room for an opportunity to get a deeper understanding of particular parts of forage production through a report that each student writes. The report was supervised by one of the teachers and that had expertise in the student's chosen subject.

The examination was in the form of a home exam due to COVID -19. The exam provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate what we learned during the course with questions from the different teachers we had during the course. The course is coordinated with the course Feed science and forage production. This gave a broader view of the forage's importance and a good opportunity to learn from other students.

One of the less good parts of the course was that the focus was mainly on European and the Scandinavian climate and not on an international level.

For students with an interest in agriculture, this is a great course. It includes parts that are important for a good understanding of forage production, but also agricultural systems. Overall, this was a very good and exciting course where you always felt welcome and encouraged to discuss.

Kontakta support: support@slu.se - 018-67 6600