Investigating myths associated with feed evaluation with Critical Thinking

Purpose
To critically read a dialogue that contains various myths/opinions and facts, and to be able to distinguish fact from fiction.

Overview
This section requires students to read two statements about various issues related to feed analysis. Then, students are required to:
1. Briefly distinguish the “facts” from “opinions” and “fallacies” in the dialogue by using three separate short paragraphs to summarize the facts, fallacies and opinions in each statement.
2. Write an essay expressing their own views on the issues highlighted in the statement. The essay should contain pertinent citations from the literature that support the student’s opinions on each of the subjects.

Statements
1. Antinutritive factors in forages greatly reduce the nutritional potential of several forages that would otherwise provide an ideal source of nutrients that are deficient in many livestock production systems. Such forages should be avoided when livestock diets are being formulated.
2. Forage quality is a term that encompasses nutritive value and feed intake, yet none of the methods of measuring the intake of grazing animals is really accurate. Since intake cannot be measured accurately, all forage quality indices in the literature are misleading and should be henceforth disregarded.

Guidelines
The report should be word processed, double spaced and should not exceed 3000 words (excluding references). The word count should be indicated on the last page and documents should be spelling checked before submission. Every time a reference is made in the text to published information, the author’s surname and year of publication should be stated, e.g. (McDonalds, 1990) and the full citation of the reference should be entered in the bibliography. Points will be deducted if these guidelines are ignored.

Assessment criteria
Were the facts and opinions correctly identified and distinguished and briefly summarized in a short paragraph for each excerpt?
- Did the essays demonstrate a distinct point of view that was substantiated by the literature?
- Did the facts cited in the essay support this point of view?
- Did the essay include pertinent references/citations?

Due date.
The assignment should be submitted before 5 pm on April 26, 2004. Five percentage points will be deducted from the overall grade, for each day (including weekend days) the assignment is late without prior permission.