

2009

2008 Review—ISU Beef Teaching Farm, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

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Recommended Citation

Ruble, Marshall (2009) "2008 Review—ISU Beef Teaching Farm, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa," *Animal Industry Report*: AS 655, ASL R2477.

Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans_air/vol655/iss1/99

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2008 Review – ISU Beef Teaching Farm South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R2477

Marshall Ruble, superintendent,
Animal Science Beef Teaching Unit

Summary

The Beef Teaching farm uses cattle for many activities without interrupting day-to-day management or affecting herd inventory. The farm merchandises seedstock, embryos, and semen from its spring purebred herd. The farm merchandises through avenues that showcase not only the cattle but Iowa State University undergraduate students. The sales are an every other year student managed 490X Animal Science class, private treaty, The Iowa Beef Expo, and The National Western Foundation Female Sale. The next sale at the farm will be held January 24, 2009.

Herd Makeup

The Beef Teaching cattle are comprised of two separate herds. The spring herd has 35 Angus cows derived from the first Angus cow registered to Iowa State University in 1896 and 40 Simmental cows upgraded from the original 16 purebred cows purchased in 1984. The spring cows calve March 1-April 30. The fall herd has primarily 65 Simmental Angus F1 cows that calve August 1-September 20. Non-seedstock cattle are fed retained ownership and harvested for undergraduate classes, research projects, and the remainder at Iowa harvest facilities where carcass data is collected for verification of genetic progress. Embryo transfer has and will become more important to the continual upgrading of these herds.

Teaching Responsibilities

Cattle are used for the following classes to encourage hands on teaching. Many courses are taught both spring and fall semesters. In the summer of 2007 a new processing building was built for better student interaction for our hands on laboratories.

An Sci 101-Introduction to Animal Science-24 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 226-Introduction to Beef Cattle Management-40 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 270-Meats with Live Animal Evaluation-12 student contact hours fall only

An Sci 305-Livestock Judging-20 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 332-Reproduction Physiology-36 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 334-Embryo Transfer-9 student contact hours fall only

An Sci 336-Animal Behavior-4 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 426-Beef Cattle Systems Management-5 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 475A-Livestock Judging Team-24 student contact hours per semester

An Sci 490X-Merchandising-60 student contact hours on odd numerical years

Outreach Activities

The beef teaching unit supplies cattle for the following activities:

- Iowa Cattlemen's Scholarship Extravaganza-20 teams of 3 compete for over \$20,000 in scholarships
- Ultrasound Certification-60 people tested for carcass certification, 10 people per day
- CUP Ultrasound Training-50 people annually
- Biotronics Ultrasound Training-50 people annually
- Artificial Insemination Training and Certification-Four 3 day schools annually, average 12 people per school
- Block and Bridle annual activities-Little North American Showmanship, Livestock Evaluation workshops, Elementary Farm Days
- State 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest annually, 120 plus contestants
- Retinal Scanning Training-Iowa 4-H, 60 people annually
- 4-H, FFA, Junior College, and Senior College Livestock and Meat Evaluation Teams stop for half day workouts while traveling through Iowa, 20 teams annually
- Iowa State Fair Sale of Champions-House and care for animals until harvest 3 days annually
- Iowa State University Judging Camp-100 student participants annually
- 4-H Roundup-60 participants annually
- Continue to promote High Marbling Breeding Project Cows to make available for public auction to share germ plasm
- Provided cattle for chute demonstrations at the 2008 Farm Progress Show

Research Projects

Iowa voluntary bovine Johne's disease control program-Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The herd is currently the only level 3 herd in the state of Iowa.



**High selling Open
Simmental heifer Iowa
Beef Expo 2006**



**\$14,000 Angus Open Heifer in
Denver 2006**



Animal Science 101 Students



**Animal Science 305
judging steers**