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2003 Review—ISU Beef Teaching Farm, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

Marshall Ruble
Iowa State University

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A.S. Leaflet R1845

Marshall Ruble, Superintendent
Animal Science Beef Teaching Unit

Summary

The Beef Teaching Center is able to utilize cattle for many activities without interrupting day-to-day management or affecting herd inventory. The farm also sells seedstock primarily from the spring herd. The seedstock are merchandised through an every other year sale conducted by the Animal Science 490X class, private treaty, the Iowa Beef Expo, and the National Western Foundation Female sales.

Herd Makeup

The Beef Teaching herd is comprised of two herds. The spring herd has 40 purebred Angus cows and 50 purebred Simmental cows that calve March 1-April 30. The fall herd has primarily 65 Simmental Angus F1 cows that calve August 1-September 20. Non-breeding cattle are fed out in a retained ownership program, slaughtered at Iowa harvest facilities and carcass data is collected.

Teaching Responsibilities

Cattle are used for the following classes. Most classes meet Spring and Fall semesters.

- An Sci 114 – Introduction to Animal Science – 24 student contact hours per semester
- An Sci 250 – Introduction to Livestock Management – 24 student contact hours per semester
- An Sci 270 – Meats with Live Animal Evaluation – 12 student contact hours per semester
- 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 per semester
- An Sci 336 – Animal Behavior – 4 student contact hours per semester
- An Sci 345 – Growth and Development with Ultrasound – 20 student contact hours fall only
- An Sci 345X – Advanced Ultrasound – 24 student contact hours spring only
- An Sci 426 – Beef Production – 16 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

Sus Ag 515 Integrated Crop and Livestock Production – 2 student contact hours fall only

Outreach Activities

- Iowa Cattleman's Scholarship Extravaganza – 20 teams competing for \$20,000 in scholarships
- Iowa Simmental Judging workshop – 20 participants at summer field day
- Farm and Field Fest – Cattle used for chute demonstrations for 3 days (20,000 plus visitors)
- Ultrasound Certification – 90-100 people tested for certification, 10 people per day
- Biotronics Ultrasound Training – 50 people annually
- Artificial Insemination Training – Four 3 day schools annually, average 12 people per school
- Calving Workshop – Iowa Beef Center Extension project
- Block and Bridle annual activities – Little North American Showmanship, Livestock Evaluation workshops
- State 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest (annually)



Research Projects

- Phosphorus Runoff – Ag Engineering
- Phosphorous intake and excretion – Animal Science
- Ovary collection – Animal Science
- Anaplasmosis study – Veterinary Medicine
- Fly counts and collection – Entomology

