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2006 Review—Animal Science Teaching Support Group, 3125 State Ave, Ames, Iowa

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2006 Review

Animal Science Teaching Support Group

3125 State Ave, Ames, Iowa

A S. Leaflet R2250

Bob Hibbing, operations superintendent
Animal Science Teaching Units

History

The Animal Science Teaching Support group has existed since the mid-1960's, when the livestock production demonstration units for Beef, Sheep, and Swine were moved off campus. Two to six full time staff and one to four student employees have provided a variety of services for the teaching program. In the early 1990's, ISU Farm Service was closed, and the support group absorbed some of their services, notably, forage harvesting for horses and ruminants, including dairy.

History of Facilities

The Teaching Support Group has used the Zumwalt Station Farm (named after an interurban rail depot) building site since the early 1970's. The Agronomy Farm previously used the facilities. Many nails on approximately 2" centers are still embedded in the brace-work and rafters of buildings. The nails were used to dry research corn in the ear on wire ear-dryers which were hung on these nails. Aerial photos from about 1950 show dormitories also at this site. These buildings housed a conscientious objector work site during the 1940's.

The main building on the site is a brick barn with a wing attached to it perpendicularly. On the opposite outside wall from this wing, an additional wing was planned, but was never built. It was to be used for housing horses, but tractor power replaced that need, and the opening in the brick wall for the horse wing was poured shut with concrete.

Present Facilities

Buildings currently used include a brick 65x113' barn housing an office, a shop, and equipment storage. Other buildings, primarily used for equipment and forages storage include a 28x48 corncrib, a 20x84' machine shed, and a 29x93' machine shed. Four old Quonset buildings have also been put up on 6' high railroad ties for additional shed space.

Equipment

The support group maintains the following equipment which is used by all of the teaching individual species. Hours-of-use per species is recorded, and repairs and replacement costs are prorated accordingly. Equipment used includes 7 tractors, 3 field mowers, 2 lawn mowers, 2 skid

loaders, 3 manure spreaders, 4 field rakes, 8 flat racks, 6 barge or other wagons, 4 livestock trailers, and various shop and feeding equipment.

Mission

To serve the teaching farms in their needs for equipment, forages, facilities, fertility, and waste, weed, and livestock management.

Contributions

- Mow about 900 acres per year
- Large round bale about 2000 bales of hay and bedding per year
- Small square bale and handle about 9000 bales per year
- Establish about 25 acres per year in alfalfa or alfalfa/grass
- Service and provide minimal repairs on all equipment
- Work with FP&M to install ceilings, roofs, fences, bathrooms (FP&M provides materials, support crew provides labor and expertise)
- Work with FP&M to maintain buildings. Support group is first call; FP&M is notified for legitimate "cost-center" items such as furnaces, fans, ballasts, doors, drain problems.
- Maintain livestock waterers
- Move snow as needed for classes and feeding operations
- Work with ISU's Land Manager on Manure Management Plan
- Coordinate pumping of 950,000 gallons of liquid manure
- Maintain lift station pump
- Pump 3 million gallon lagoon
- Spray weeds spring and fall
- Spray alfalfa pests
- Maintain pesticide applicators certification
- Provide setup/teardown/cleaning labor for livestock labs and animal shows
- Provide safety training and equipment training
- Provide continuity amidst changing student and graduate-student workers and in carrying out administrative directives.
- Maintain mortality composting site.
- Facilitate local research, including waste handling, utility and facility repairs, etc.