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2007 Review—ISU Beef Teaching Farm South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

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A.S. Leaflet R2368

Marshall Ruble, superintendent  
Animal Science Beef Teaching Unit

Summary
The Beef Teaching farm uses cattle for many activities without interrupting daily management or affecting herd inventory. The farm merchandises seedstock, embryos, and semen from its spring purebred herd through avenues that showcase not only the cattle but Iowa State University undergraduate students. The sales include 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.

Teaching Responsibilities
Cattle are used for the following classes to encourage hands on teaching. Many courses are taught both spring and fall semesters.

AnS 101-Introduction to Animal Science-24 student contact hours per semester  
AnS 226-Introduction to Beef Cattle Management-40 student contact hours per semester  
AnS 270-Meats with Live Animal Evaluation-12 student contact hours fall only  
AnS 305-Livestock Judging-20 student contact hours per semester  
AnS 332-Reproduction Physiology-36 student contact hours per semester  
AnS 334-Embryo Transfer-9 student contact hours fall only  
AnS 336-Animal Behavior-4 student contact hours per semester

AnS 426-Beef Cattle Systems Management-5 student contact hours per semester  
AnS 475A-Livestock Judging Team-24 student contact hours per semester  
AnS 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, 20 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  
Host American Angus Boot Camp 25 participants

Research Projects
Recently the beef teaching unit has also provided cattle for these various research projects:

Cow Calf Winter Grazing-Animal Science  
Modified DDG to Extend Cornstalk Grazing-Animal Science  
Pasture and DDG to Finish Steers-Animal Science  
BVD PI Carriers-Vet Med  
Iowa voluntary bovine Johne’s disease control program

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
High selling Open Simmental heifer Iowa Beef Expo 2006

$14,000 Angus Open Heifer in Denver 2006

Animal Science 101 Students judging steers