Course Syllabus
Sheep Production

Agr. 305                        4 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is offered every other year. It is designed for junior and senior students. Course includes the basic and recent concepts of selection, reproduction, nutrition, and herd health management involved in a successful sheep enterprise. Laboratory period included. Prerequisites: Agr 110, 210, 312 or permission of instructor.

OBJECTIVES

A. BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
   1. Presentation of detailed operational and managerial practices for maximizing income in a sheep enterprise.
   2. Importance, usefulness, and distribution of the major breeds of sheep in the U.S. and the world.
   3. The major breeds of sheep, their distribution and particular contributions.
   4. Discussion of housing and handling equipment available for various sheep enterprises.

B. SKILLS
   1. Evaluation and selection of sheep based on performance criteria.
   2. Record keeping and usefulness on managing the farm or commercial flock
   3. Development of balanced rations to meet the nutrient requirements for various physiological classes of sheep.
   4. A basic working knowledge of sheep diseases and disorders and establishment of a health program.
   5. Firsthand experience via field trips, of many management practices of successful sheep farmers and managers.

C. ATTITUDES AND VALUES
   1. Appreciation or sheep in the U.S. and its place in world sheep production.
   2. Understanding the role of wool production and its unique qualities as a very important product for man.

The course textbook will be:
Sheep Production Handbook - by SID

The following reference books will be found useful:
Diseases of Sheep
Reproduction in Farm Animals, by Hafez

CONTENT OUTLINE
1. The Sheep Industry in Ohio
   Sheep in the U.S., Sheep distribution and adaptation, future of sheep.

2. Types and Breeds of Sheep
   Breed associations, needs and uses for different types and breeds, history of changes.

Revised Spring Semester 2010
3. Establishing the Sheep Flock
   The sheep enterprise, evaluating and judging sheep, production systems, commercial and purebred flocks.

4. Selection of the Breeding Herd
   Selection standards and guidelines, crossbreeding in the commercial flock, productive traits.

5. Buildings and Equipment for the Flock
   Handling and working facilities, type of housing, fencing, layouts and plans.

6. Sheep Health
   Disease prevention and treatment, nutritional disorders, non-nutritional diseases, parasite control.

7. Nutrition of the Flock
   Nutrient requirements of sheep, NRC requirements, formulation of rations for sheep of all ages.

8. Wool and Mohair
   Wool properties and characteristics, wool harvesting and care, wool marketing.

9. Managing the Sheep Flock
   Operating budgets, records and use of records, arranging the lambing program.

10. Marketing Lamb and Mutton
    Market classifications and grading systems, pricing and marketing decisions.

LABORATORY
   Field trips will be conducted to local sheep enterprises and industry related organizations. These outings are provided to give you first-hand experiences in the area of sheep feeding, breeding, management and industry activities. A lab write-up describing the learning experiences of each trip will be due one week following the activity. All late papers should be expected to be graded at 70% of original value. If for any reason you are unable to participate in a lab please review an appropriate article from the Journal of Animal Science of 4-5 pages in length plus proper references.

COURSE EVALUATION
   The final course grade will be evaluated according to the following:
   First Exam  25%  Final Exam  25%
   Second Exam 25%  Laboratory 25%

   All papers submitted late will be penalized 30% of grade. Those submitted after one week overdue will receive no grade. Questions are invited and encouraged at anytime throughout the lecture and lab. Students wishing help for any reason should feel free to contact the instructor.

Assignments – All course assignments to be submitted hard copy and not by e-mail!

Professor - Harold Thirey, Professor of Agriculture, Wilmington College
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Office Hours - Mornings when not in class.
Lecture - 7:45 A.M. Tuesday and Thursday
Lab - Tuesday 1:00 P.M.
Attendance/Absence Policy - Three unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction.
Penalty for Academic Dishonesty - All college policies regarding plagiarism and cheating will apply.