Course Syllabus

Livestock Judging and Evaluation

Agr. 306  3 Credit Hours

Fall 2012

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, evaluation of performance data, and visual appraisal in placing classes of livestock. Prerequisites: Agr 108

OBJECTIVES

A. BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
   1. The major breeds of livestock, their distribution and special contributions.
   2. Improving successive generations of livestock.

B. SKILLS
   1. Select livestock based on genetic strengths.
   2. Record keeping and its usefulness in managing purebred or commercial livestock.

C. ATTITUDES AND VALUES
   1. Appreciation of livestock function, and their usefulness to humanity.
   2. Understanding animal production and unique animal products for mankind.

The course textbook will be: Hunsley, Livestock Judging, Selection, and Evaluation

The following reference will be found useful:

   South Dakota State University Livestock Judging Manual

   On line at: http://ars.sdstate.edu/AnimalEval/LivestockJudgingMan.pdf

CONTENT OUTLINE

1. Beef Cattle Evaluation and Selection
   Ideal Breeding/Market animals
   Beef pedigrees / registration data
   Functional traits affecting cow efficiency
   Anatomy and physiology as regards longevity
   Individual performance measures - frame scores / BCS’s / weaning weights
   Production beef vrs show stock
   Market grades / USDA Yield Grades
   Evaluating EPD’s
   Double muscling – twice the meat?
   What is the value of a bum steer?

Revised Fall 2012
2. Sheep Evaluation and Selection
   Ideal Breeding/Market animals
   Improving the next generation
   Individual performance data - BCS’s / birth weights / 90 day wts
   Market grades / USDA Yield Grades
   Anatomy and physiology for longevity
   Sheep evaluation and judging terminology
   Sheep breed characteristics – fine, medium, and coarse wooled sheep
   Flock improvement possibilities

3. Swine Evaluation and Selection
   Ideal Breeding/Market animals
   When might you get a “pig in a poke”?
   Individual performance data.
   Evaluating lamb carcasses. Understanding market grades
   USDA Yield Grades
   Ideal Breeding/Market animals
   Inherited defects of swine
   Swine evaluation and judging terminology
   Anatomy and physiology for longevity

4. Horses For Pleasure and Purpose
   Stock horse type
   Anatomy and physiology for longevity
   Selecting your first horse
   Draft horses – standard needs
   Form and function
   The skeleton and its importance
   Common defects in way of going
   Alignment of the legs and feet

5. Dairy Cattle Improvement
   The Ideal Dairy cow
   DHI Records
   BCS’s
   Historical overview of dairy cattle improvement
   Anatomy and physiology for longevity
   Should or can every cow in your barn be the world’s record cow?
   Breed defects and disqualifications
   Dairy cattle judging and terminology
   Improving next years cow herd

6. Judging or visual appraisal
   Placing and scoring animal classes
   Developing a judging system
   How judging contests are conducted (Wilmington Aggies Judging Contest)

7. The Modern Animal - Now and Then
   Pedigrees - Performance - Judging
LABORATORY

Field trips will be conducted to local livestock enterprises and industry related organizations. These outings are provided to give you first-hand experiences in the area of animal improvement. 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:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
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<td>Second Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Judging Assignments</td>
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<td>Evaluation Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection Assignments</td>
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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.

A minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work is expected for each hour of in-class time.

Regarding classroom penalty for academic misconduct –

“See the current Student Handbook for the college’s Academic Integrity policies as they pertain to examinations, plagiarism, classroom behavior, and the process for handling academic misconduct charges.”

Instructor’s attendance/absence policy –

“See the current Student Handbook for the college’s Attendance policy especially as it pertains to excused absences.”

A.D.A. statement:

“Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a documented disability that requires accommodation, contact the Academic Services Director.”

Professor - Harold Thirey, Professor of Agriculture, Wilmington College
Pyle Center Box 1305    Wilmington, Ohio 45177    Office: Kettering 306    Ext. 396
Office Hours - Mornings when not in class.
Lecture - 6:30 – 9:00 P.M.  Monday    Kettering 202
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.