
ISU Beef Teaching Farm

South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

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 merchandises seedstock, embryos, and semen from its Spring herd. The farm merchandises through avenues that showcase not only the cattle but Iowa State University undergraduate students. The sales are 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 27, 2007.

Herd Makeup

The Beef Teaching cattle are comprised of two separate herds. The spring herd has 40 Angus cows derived from the first Angus cow registered to Iowa State University in 1896 and 45 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 60 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. Most classes meet both Spring and Fall semesters.

An Sci 101-Introduction to Animal Science-24 student contact hours per semester
An Sci 226-Introduction to Beef Cattle Management-24 student contact hours per semester
An Sci 270-Meats with Live Animal Evaluation-12 student contact hours fall only
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 fall only
An Sci 336-Animal Behavior-4 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

Outreach Activities

Annual outreach activities include:

- Iowa Cattlemen's Scholarship Extravaganza-20 teams compete for over \$20,000 in scholarships
- Ultrasound Certification-60 people tested for carcass certification, 10 people per day
- CUP Ultrasound Training-50 people
- Biotronics Ultrasound Training-50 people
- Artificial Insemination Training and Certification-four 3 day schools, average 12 people per school
- Block and Bridle activities-Little North American Showmanship, Livestock Evaluation workshops
- State 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest, 120 plus contestants
- AABP Spring Break Palpation and Cattle Processing Wet Labs, 20 Veterinary students
- Retinal Scanning Training-Iowa 4-H, 20 people
- 4-H, FFA, Junior College, and Senior College Livestock and Meat Evaluation Teams stop for half day workouts while traveling through Iowa, 20 teams
- Iowa State Fair Sale of Champions-House and care for animals until harvest
- Iowa State University Judging Camp-100 students
- 4-H Roundup-60 students
- Collected Embryos from High Marbling Breeding Project Cows to make available for public auction to share germ plasm

Research Projects

Alfalfa Grazing-Agronomy
Dwarfism DNA Marker-Animal Science
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-Veterinary Medicine

