

Executive Summary

Beef Cattle Production Certificate Program

Changes in the beef cattle industry are creating a significant demand for trained employees. These changes include significant increases in input and output costs, the increased use of technology, and public concerns over meat safety. The changes and the demand for employees exist in all segments of the industry from seedstock and cow-calf producers, through stocker/feeder and feedlot operations, and ultimately to the packing and retail segments.

Certificate Programs

We are recommending the development of two new certificate levels of instruction, developed at the request of industry in conjunction with the Agriculture Advisory Board. These certificates will respond to industry's need for entry-level employees who are trained to enter the workforce rapidly and continue training while employed.

Certificate holders will possess the knowledge and basic skills to optimize productivity and maximize profitability across all segments of the beef cattle industry. Employees understanding the decision making processes and options available to the industry increase their value to employers.

The Level I certificate prepares students for entry level employment, and easily leads to a more advanced certificate (Level II).

Coursework

Level 1	Level 2
Concepts for Agriculture (3 credits)	Agriculture Orientation (2 credits)
Principles of Animal Science (3 credits)	Concepts for Agriculture (3 credits)
Commercial Driver's License (3 credits)	Principles of Animal Science (3 credits)
Plant Science (5 credits)	Commercial Driver's License (3 credits)
Fundamentals of Animal Nutrition (3 credits)	Plant Science (5 credits)
Beef Cattle Production (3 credits)	Fundamentals of Animal Nutrition (3 credits)
Farm Machinery and Technology (3 credits)	Beef Cattle Production (3 credits)
	Principles of Agriculture Economics (3 credits)
	Farm Machinery and Technology (3 credits)
	Horse Production (3 credits)
	Range Management (3 credits)
	Beef Operations (3 credits)
23 credit hours	37 credit hours

Agribusiness AAS Revisions

The current Agribusiness AAS degree coursework lists courses that have not been taught for several years, such as Meat Judging and Carcass Selection. With input from the Agriculture Advisory Board, it is recommended that selected certificate courses are utilized as electives for students who desire to complete an AAS in Agribusiness with an emphasis in Beef Cattle Production. This option provides students seeking a degree the ability to use the certificate coursework as stackable credentials. The remaining elective courses are available to students seeking alternative Agribusiness career paths.

Requested Changes for the Agribusiness AAS:

Major Requirements:

- Remove Farm & Business Management
- Leave General Accounting
- Move Computer Concepts from “elective” to requirement
- Add Concepts for Agriculture
- Move Economic Entomology from required to “elective”
- Requirements change from 22 hours to 25 hours

Major Electives:

- **Delete:**
 - Principles of Meat Evaluation
 - Livestock Carcass Selection I
 - Marketing Agriculture Products
 - Animal Science & Industry
 - Livestock Carcass Selection II
- **Add:**
 - Farm Machinery and Technology
 - Horse Production
 - Beef Operations

The number of elective credits will result in 19.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie Kramp – Executive Director of Workforce Training & Economic Development

Dr. Victor Martin – Agriculture Instructor & Coordinator

Dr. Verle Carlson – Agriculture Associate Faculty

4/10/12