

Equine Program Review

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Summary

The Department of Animal Science seeks to provide the highest quality active learning environment that promotes life-long learning in both career and life skills for students dedicated to the equine industry while serving the equine community through extension and outreach activities. Student backgrounds range from no horse experience to very experienced. Courses accommodate the range of experiences by incorporating a variety of “hands-on” activities. Hundreds of youth and adults have been educated by extension and outreach activities.

Equine Teaching

The goals of teaching are to allow students to understand basic concepts associated with equine production and management; to develop concepts and skills for problem-solving and appropriate management integration in areas of safe and efficient horse handling, nutrition and reproduction; to understand basic physiology and chemistry as applied to equine animal systems; to apply scientific knowledge for problem-solving in the equine industry; to acquire scientific and technical knowledge and understanding as well as practical, managerial and business skills necessary to work within the equine industry, and to demonstrate an understanding of the anatomy, physiology, nutrition and psychology of the horse. Equine courses that meet these goals are listed in table 1.

The Iowa State University Horse Judging Team focuses on learning about the competitive horse industry including class or event standards, rules, scoring procedures, and industry jargon. The team focuses on gaining experience in judging horses in several national contests hosted by different breed associations. Student outcomes of this experience include being able to make detailed observations about the horses’ performances, the ability to compare and contrast individuals and apply the factual information learned about the events to make sound decisions, and to effectively communicate their reasons for their decisions in placing classes.

In the spring semester, the Horse Judging Team competes at two contests in April. The first contest is in Katy, Texas, at the National Reining Breeders Classic and focuses on the Reining event. This contest involves two classes of 10 horses each, a rulebook test and reasons. The second contest is in Ft Worth, Texas, where the team competes at the Spring Sweepstakes Contest hosted by the American Paint Horse Association. The students judge 12

classes and give 4 sets of reasons. The team also tours some of the farms in the Aubrey area. Each year dedicated and well known horse trainers and professionals in the area host judging teams from across the country to share their knowledge in specific events or farm management. Students also have the opportunity for networking and to look for potential internship opportunities.

The ISU Horse judging team began the 2011 season with the American Paint Horse Sweepstakes on April 11 near Ft Worth, Texas. This contest was the first ever for most of ISU’s contestants and consisted of four classes of halter horses, eight performance horse classes and four sets of reasons. Spring team members included Abbey Sindt, Abbie Aleff, Ceara Fjeld, Megan Staton, Sarah Tenley, Jess Howell, Bree Schwarte, and Sara Swenson. Sarah Tenley placed 18th in the halter division. There were more than 30 senior college teams with more than 160 individuals competing. While in Texas, the team traveled the horse country north of Fort Worth to tour many farms in the Aubrey area.

The team then returned to Texas to attend the NRBC (National Reining Breeders Classic) in Katy on April 19th. This contest focused specifically on Reining and consisted of placing two classes of ten horses, placing two classes of four horses, two sets of oral reasons and a written rulebook exam. ISU placed 4th in the contest missing 3rd by only 3 points! Jess Howell was also the 8th place individual overall.

In the fall semester, the horse judging team recruited only three members: Monica Madsen, Liz Sample and Sarah Tenley. While these three young women could not make up a full team, they worked hard and entered the Limited Division at the All American Quarter Horse Congress and the Quarter Horse World Show. At the Congress, Monica Madsen won the halter division and placed fourth overall. Liz Sample won reserve in the halter division and Sarah Tenley won the performance horse division and was the overall high point individual. The All American Quarter Horse World Show Contest was held November 16. Monica Madsen placed fourth in Performance, fourth in Reasons and seventh Overall. Liz Sample and Sarah Tenley earned 15th and 18th place in the Overall awards respectively in the limited division. To finish up the judging season, the team returned to Oklahoma City for the National Reining Horse Association Futurity. For this contest Katie Spenler and Bree Schwarte joined the group to comprise a full team. This contest included judging two sets of 10 runs, a rulebook exam and a video clip test. ISU finished seventh..

Equine Extension and Outreach Activities

Both the youth and adult extension and outreach programs reach hundreds of horse owners throughout Iowa and the Midwest. Table 2 lists the adult equine programs.

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The Master Equine Manager 1 & 2 and the Ring Steward Workshop are certificate programs.

Every county fair has a horse show. In addition there are multiple open horse shows held each year. The clinic is designed as an education opportunity for horse show judges. This allows for uniformity in standards for judging horse shows including halter, showmanship, stock seat equitation, hunt seat equitation and pleasure, driving horses, etc.

For the clinic a one-day program is held. Participants judge 8 to 10 classes of 4 horses. Classes are selected from typical classes judges would see at a county fair or open horse show. These may include but are not limited to halter, showmanship, pleasure, and trail. Each judge is scored on their placing. In addition, potential judges must take an open book examination on Rules and Regulations for 4-H Equine Shows in Iowa. To be placed in the judges directory, the individual must score 85% or better on the practical examination and written examination. An annual directory is developed that is distributed to county extension offices and open horse show organizations.

The Master Equine Manager Level 1 program consists of 24 hours of instruction that include six 2-hour internet sessions and a two-day hands-on skill development session at Iowa State University. The program covers the science of horse management. Level II consists of individual modules covering in-depth aspects of horse management.

Grazing News, a monthly on-line newsletter is sent to over 1500 individuals each month. The newsletter includes articles as well as a calendar of equine events. Archives of the newsletter are at

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs030/1102928001849/archive/1103552149293.html>

Table 3 lists the horse programs for 4-Her's and youth. The 4-H horse judging contest is held in conjunction with the Horse Judges Certification Clinic. This allows the contest to be educational as well as competitive. The Jamboree is held in March at Iowa State University. In 2011, over 200 youth participated. The winning senior teams from both the hippology and quiz bowl contests represent Iowa at the Western Nationals in Denver, CO.

Table 1. Equine courses at Iowa State University.

Course	Semester Taught	Number of Students
AnS 199 – Marketing and Management of Livestock Events – Equine	Fall, Spring	24
AnS 216 – Equine Science	Fall, Spring	125
AnS 217 – Equine Farm Practicum	Fall	8
AnS 306- Equine Selection	Spring	30
AnS 313 – Exercise Physiology of Animals	Spring	27
AnS 317 – Fundamentals of Equine Behavior and Training	Summer Fall	4 5
AnS 414 – Equine Nutrition and Feeding	Fall	10
AnS 415 – Equine Systems Management	Spring	37
AnS 417 – Equine Reproduction	Spring	9
AnS 475 – Horse Judging	Fall, Spring	10

Table 2. Adult Equine Extension and Outreach programs.

- Iowa Horse Judges Certification Clinic
- Iowa Ring Steward Certification Workshop
- Master Equine Manager Level I
- Master Equine Manager Level II Module
 - Functional Anatomy
- Western Pleasure Clinic

Table 3. 4-H and Youth Equine programs.

- Iowa 4-H Horse Judging Contest
- Iowa 4-H Horse Show @ State Fair
- Iowa 4-H and Youth Jamboree

Hippology	Quiz Bowl
Public Speaking	Team Demonstrations
Poster	Photography
Painting	Essay
Poetry	Clothes Horse
Woodworking	Model Horse

- 4-H Roundup
- Iowa State University Horse Judging Camp



Figure 1. Student cleaning the hoof for the ANS 216 examination.



Figure 4. Iowa Horse Judges Certification Clinic and Iowa 4-H Horse Judging Contest



Figure 2. Preparing for the Little North American contest.



Figure 5. Master Equine Managers evaluating fecal parasites.



Figure 3. Iowa State University Horse Judging Team at the 2011 Quarter Horse Congress.

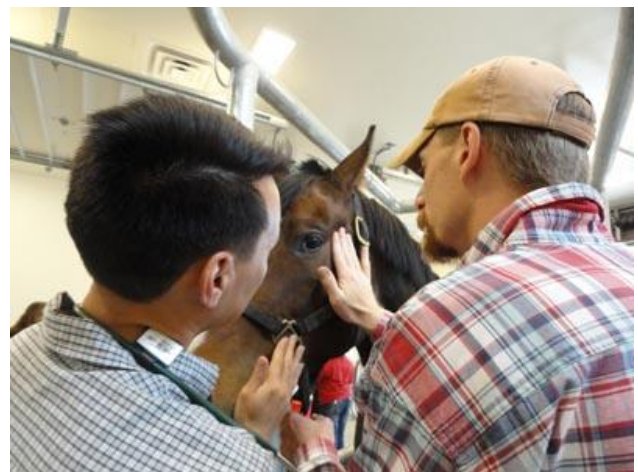


Figure 6. Master Equine Manager learning to measure the pulse.