

# Iowa State University Horse Teaching Farm

## A.S. Leaflet R1929

Angela Chandler, Superintendent,  
Animal Science Horse Unit

### Summary

The first horse barn at ISU was built in 1870. Since that time, equine studies have been an integral part of the animal sciences. The current facilities for the horse unit were constructed in 1926 and have existed with little modification since that time. The faculty and staff endeavor to provide the highest quality active learning environment that promotes life-long learning in both career and life skills for students and to serve the equine community through extension and outreach activities. The farm unit maintains a horse herd of 45 head to support at least 10 courses on an annual basis. The unit also stands several studs for breeding mares from the university and private clientele.

### History

The need for a horse barn was established by the Iowa State College trustees in 1868, but construction did not begin until 1870. In 1900, the original barn was razed and a new barn built which would serve as the horse barn. In 1923, construction began on two new barns and the Horse Farm was moved to what is now the corner of Pammel and Stange Roads. The center wing was constructed in 1926 completing a U-shape design with the two barns. A third barn was built in 1927 and used as a horse barn until 1957 when it was remodeled for use in basic ruminant nutrition research. This barn was reassigned to the Horse Farm in the 1990's though it still bears the name of Ruminant Nutrition Lab.

### Mission

To provide the highest quality active learning environment that promotes life-long learning in both career and life skills for students dedicated to horses while serving the equine community through extension and outreach activities.

### Facilities

Two barns and a central archway create a u-shape structure with a courtyard that has been fenced in to serve as a turnout paddock. The west wing consists of six large box stalls, 15 tie stalls, feed room, office, and student apartment. Although the west wing has been designated as the stallion barn, the tie stalls are used by students for various classes. The central archway contains an enclosed lab and an equipment and bedding storage area. The lab houses a high-speed equine treadmill used for research and teaching and a set of stocks used for treatment and grooming.

The east wing is made up of 7 large box stalls, 4 oversized stalls that open out to paddocks, a feed room and a student apartment. This barn has been called the mare barn but is generally a multi-purpose barn.

The third barn has been redesigned as a breeding barn. Due to previous remodeling by the ruminant nutrition group, the barn is now climate controlled and houses two large foaling stalls, three box stalls, a breeding area with stocks, a teasing wall and collection phantom, a semen processing lab, a classroom, and an office.

There are a total of 12 paddocks on the central horse farm. Three of these paddocks are designated for stallion turnout, four of them are attached to the over-sized stalls of the mare barn providing shelter, and the others are multi-use paddocks. The two larger paddocks contain shelters. An arena and two round pens are used for classes and additional turnout.

### Farm Area and Land Use

There are railroad tracks immediately to the north of the horse unit. Two small pastures are on the north side of the railroad tracks. The larger of the two pastures contains a shelter, but neither pasture has heated water and therefore, cannot be used during the winter months. A 15-acre pasture on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Haber Road has heated water and is used year round to house broodmares and research geldings. On the north side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, there is a 27-acre pasture with no water source that requires hauling water in during the warmer months and cannot be used during the winter. A 12-acre pasture on North Dakota Avenue is on loan to the Animal Science Department for use by the Horse Farm. It has heated water and is used to house broodmares and young stock year round.

### Classes

ANS 114: Working with Animals Lab – farm visit that covers facilities, breed types and general uses of horses.

ANS 216: Equine Science – basic equine science designed to increase the student's knowledge of horses and the horse industry.

ANS 316: Training the Horse – course that discusses the principles of horse behavior and training with each student assigned a horse to train through biting, longeing, saddling and riding.

ANS 332: Lab Methods in Reproduction – farm visit that includes setting up an artificial vagina, collecting a stallion, processing and analyzing semen, and inseminating a mare.

ANS 336: Livestock Behavior – farm visit that covers basic equine behavior demonstrations.

ANS 415: Equine Systems Management – teaches management techniques including current topics of concern

in the horse industry, nutritional and breeding management, business management, advertising and marketing.

ANS 416X: Horse Management Marketing Enterprise – intensified management of equine enterprises through facility management, web development for advertising and marketing, and research of commercial facilities.

ANS 417X: Horse Management Breeding Enterprise – hands on experience in facility management, breeding management and student supervision.

ANS 475A: Livestock Animal Judging – farm visit that covers basic equine conformation and judging techniques.

VCS/VDPAM 340X: Clinical Foundations I – introductory level class covering handling and restraint techniques taught to veterinary students.

### Horse Teaching Herd

Approximately 45 head of horses either owned by the university or leased for teaching purposes are housed on the farm. The Horse Farm currently stands 1 Thoroughbred stallion, 2 Paint stallions and 4 Quarter Horse stallions with only 3 of those stallions being owned by the university. The broodmare band is comprised of approximately equal numbers of Thoroughbreds and Quarter horses and 1 Paint mare. Between 10 to 15 foals are produced every year and are used for teaching purposes and then sold to the general public. Four canulated geldings are maintained for teaching and research needs.

### Extension

At the beginning of the breeding season, an open to the public breeding management clinic is held in February. Subjects include mare and stallion physiology, hormone treatments, foaling problems, stallion collection, semen processing, and artificial insemination. Once a year, a Horse Owners Conference is held for the public. The conference covers a wide variety of topics to provide education at all levels of horse owner expertise.

### Outreach Activities

Iowa Historical Barn Foundation Tour  
4-H Round Up  
Numerous farm tours for area schools  
Horse Barn Open House

### Other Activities

Block and Bridle's Little North America  
VEISHEA pony rides  
SCAVMA lab



View of the ISU Stallion Barn from the southwest



Mares and foals in one of the small on-campus paddock



Animal Science class at the horse barn