

Equine Program Review

A.S. Leaflet R2889

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Summary

The Department of Animal Science equine program provides the highest quality active learning environment that promotes life-long learning in both career and life skills for students. Courses accommodate the range of experiences by incorporating the science with the “hands-on” activity. In addition the equine community is served through 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 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 Equine option was modified to the following.

Required courses

- AN S 216 Equine Science
- An S 415 Equine Systems Management

Nine credits from

- AnS 116X Practicum in Safe Horse Handling and Welfare.
- An S 217 Equine Farm practicum
- AN S 306 Equine Evaluation
- AN S 313 Exercise Physiology of Animals
- An S 332-2 Laboratory Methods in Animal Reproduction
- AN S 399A. Graded Internship Experience. (Equine Related, up to 3 credits)
- AN S 475E Intercollegiate Judging and Competition: Horses (up to 3 credits)
- An S 490E Independent Study: Equine Science (up to 3 credits)
- Econ 234 Small Business Management
- Agron 217 Weed Identification
- Agron 317 Weed Science

- Agron 334 Forage Crop Management
- Ageds 451 Agricultural Law

Horse Barn News

The historic Horse Barns at Iowa State continue to provide horses for teaching, research, and extension activities. The Horse Barns offer a classroom and space for demonstrations or teaching ‘hands-on’ skills during animal science courses, extension and outreach activities. In addition to teaching, the Horse Barn does provide breeding services to the public.

Over the past year, Animal Science has lost all of the horse pens that were located north of the railroad tracks to additional student housing. To replace the lost pens, a new barn with 23 stalls and runs is being constructed on the south side of campus near the new pavilion. When completed, the new facility will also have an office, breeding lab, meeting room, wash racks and isolation stalls. Horses will continue to be housed at both facilities in the future.

The ISU horse herd is comprised of approximately 20 head of broodmares. The mares are about half Thoroughbred and half Quarter Horse. These mares are utilized for student activities such as Block and Bridle’s Little North American (LNA) showmanship contest, Academic Quadrathlon, recruitment activities such as 4-H Roundup, teaching demonstrations and practicum classes in addition to further outreach activities.

In November, two new stallions joined Canaveral on campus to prepare for the 2014 breeding season. Shore Breeze has been the leading sire in Illinois for the past four years. He is a son of Danzig. Newport is by More Than Ready and out of a daughter of Secretariat. Both stallions bring different bloodlines and opportunities for mare owners in Iowa to breed to quality stallions. The foals produced are utilized for teaching and marketed to the public through private sales and public auctions. In 2013, yearlings and weanlings were sold at the Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association Sale, Reichert Stakes Sale, and the All-American Quarter Horse Congress.

At the track, the 2 year old filly Haforuhaforme was 2 for 2 breaking her maiden on her first out and coming back to win the Iowa Sorority Stakes on Classic Night August 3. Haforuhaforme was bred by ISU and foaled at the farm. This filly is owned by Valley Ridge Racing Stables. The ISU horse barn is looking forward to 2014 with the hope of completion of a new barn, the addition of two new stallions, and all of the expected new foals.

Equine Extension and Outreach Activities

Table 2 lists the adult equine programs. The horse judging clinic is designed as an educational opportunity for horse show judges. During the clinic participants judge 8 to

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10 classes of 4 horses. Classes are selected from typical classes judges would see at a county fair or open horse show. These included halter, showmanship, pleasure, and trail. Each judge is scored on their placing as well as a written examination. To be placed in the judge's directory, the individual must score 85% or both. An annual directory is developed that is distributed to county extension offices and open horse show organizations.

The Master Equine Manager program was revised to accommodate people's busy schedules. The Master Equine Manager E-Learning Certificate Program provides horse owners and enthusiasts with a comprehensive educational program that teaches the science of horse management. The program combines focused learning opportunities with hands-on practical evaluation. The learning modules include:

- Welfare of Horses: Understanding Horse Behavior, Facilities and Equipment, Equine Quality Assurance
- Horse Nutrition: Forages for Horses, Feeds and Feeding
- Horse Health: Equine Emergency Treatment, Vaccinations for Horses, Understanding Horse Parasites, and Hoof Care
- Selection of Horses: Conformation and Evaluation, Unsoundness's and Blemishes

Participants have access to each module 24/7, which includes video recordings, power point presentations, learning resources, and written assessments. Each topic has an associated on-line quiz. To become certified an 80% or better is required on the quiz and the quiz can be repeated. Participants are required to attend a "hands-on" workshop.

The University of Nebraska, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, and Iowa State University, developed the Equine Business Network on eXtension Horses (eXtension.org) to provide accessible education in rural settings for business issues facing professionals in the North Central Region horse industry. In 2013, 412 equine business professionals from across the United States registered for a free online short course series. The five courses were offered with a focus on labor law, liability issues, working with youth and volunteers, immigration documentation, and horse farm safety practices. Each course consisted of a live webinar, interactive quiz, a decision tool, and online resources. In all of these instances social media was used to connect the audience and experts, and allowed participant networking to extend from a state gathering to across the country.

Table 3 lists the horse programs for 4-Her's and youth. The 4-H 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 2013, over 200 youth participated (Grades 3 – Grade 12). Winning senior teams from hippology and quiz bowl represent Iowa at the Western Nationals in Denver, CO.

Table 1. Equine Courses at Iowa State University.

Course	Semester Taught
AnS 116 – Practicum in Safe Horse Handling and Welfare	Summer, Fall
AnS 216 – Equine Science	Fall, Spring
AnS 217 – Equine Farm Practicum	Fall
AnS 306 - Equine Selection	Spring
AnS 313 – Exercise Physiology of Animals	Fall
AnS 332 – Animal Reproduction Laboratory Methods - Equine	Spring
AnS 317 – Fundamentals of Equine Behavior and Training – Working with Weanlings	Fall
AnS 415 – Equine Systems Management	Spring

Table 2. Adult Equine Extension and Outreach Programs.

• Iowa Horse Judges Certification Clinic
• Master Equine Manager (Spring and Fall)
• Equine Business Conference

Table 3. 4-H and Youth Equine Programs.

• Barrel Race & Pole Bending Clinic																
• Iowa 4-H Horse Judging Contest																
• Iowa 4-H Horse Show @ State Fair																
• Iowa 4-H and Youth Jamboree																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hippology</td> <td>Quiz Bowl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Speaking</td> <td>Team Demonstrations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poster</td> <td>Photography</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Painting</td> <td>Essay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poetry</td> <td>Clothes Horse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodworking</td> <td>Model Horse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Digital Storytelling</td> <td>Creative Writing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scrapbooking</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Hippology	Quiz Bowl	Public Speaking	Team Demonstrations	Poster	Photography	Painting	Essay	Poetry	Clothes Horse	Woodworking	Model Horse	Digital Storytelling	Creative Writing	Scrapbooking	
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• 4-H Roundup																



Figure 1. Students from ANS 493 Workshop in Horse Sales.



Figure 2. Students in ANS 415 conducting a pasture walk.



Figure 4. Students are able to show off their hard work and experience a larger portion of the industry when they travel to the large sale venues where the ISU horses are marketed. For many students, it is their first up close look at the horse industry from a production and marketing perspective. Students enjoy not only training and fitting the young horses but also getting to interact with the sales personnel, potential buyers and all of the professionals who are also marketing or buying prospects whether it is for show, racing or recreation.



Figure 3. Two weanlings were consigned to the ITBOA Sale in Des Moines. Pictured is Canaveralsbetrloud By Canaveral out of She's Better Loud (2010 IA 3yr old filly of the year who sold for \$7500.