

2007 Review – ISU Beef Teaching Farm South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R2368

Marshall Ruble, superintendent
Animal Science Beef Teaching Unit

Summary

The Beef Teaching farm uses cattle for many activities without interrupting daily management or affecting herd inventory. The farm merchandises seedstock, embryos, and semen from its spring purebred herd through avenues that showcase not only the cattle but Iowa State University undergraduate students. The sales include 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 24, 2009.

Herd Makeup

The Beef Teaching cattle are comprised of two separate herds. The spring herd has 35 Angus cows derived from the first Angus cow registered to Iowa State University in 1896 and 40 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 65 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 to encourage hands on teaching. Many courses are taught both spring and fall semesters.

AnS 101-Introduction to Animal Science-24 student contact hours per semester

AnS 226-Introduction to Beef Cattle Management-40 student contact hours per semester

AnS 270-Meats with Live Animal Evaluation-12 student contact hours fall only

AnS 305-Livestock Judging-20 student contact hours per semester

AnS 332-Reproduction Physiology-36 student contact hours per semester

AnS 334-Embryo Transfer-9 student contact hours fall only

AnS 336-Animal Behavior-4 student contact hours per semester

AnS 426-Beef Cattle Systems Management-5 student contact hours per semester

AnS 475A-Livestock Judging Team-24 student contact hours per semester

AnS 490X-Merchandising-60 student contact hours on odd numerical years

Outreach Activities

The beef teaching unit supplies cattle for the following activities:

Iowa Cattlemen's Scholarship Extravaganza-20 teams of 3 compete for over \$20,000 in scholarships

Ultrasound Certification-60 people tested for carcass certification, 10 people per day

CUP Ultrasound Training-50 people annually

Biotronics Ultrasound Training-50 people annually

Artificial Insemination Training and Certification-Four 3 day schools annually, average 12 people per school

Block and Bridle annual activities-Little North American

Showmanship, Livestock Evaluation workshops,

Elementary Farm Days

State 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest annually, 120 plus contestants

Retinal Scanning Training-Iowa 4-H, 20 people annually

4-H, FFA, Junior College, and Senior College Livestock

and Meat Evaluation Teams stop for half day workouts

while traveling through Iowa, 20 teams annually

Iowa State Fair Sale of Champions-House and care for

animals until harvest 3 days annually

Iowa State University Judging Camp-100 student

participants annually

4-H Roundup-60 participants annually

Continue to promote High Marbling Breeding Project Cows

to make available for public auction to share germ plasm

Host American Angus Boot Camp 25 participants

Research Projects

Recently the beef teaching unit has also provided cattle for these various research projects:

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-Vet Med

Iowa voluntary bovine Johne's disease control program-

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship



**High selling Open
Simmental heifer Iowa
Beef Expo 2006**



**\$14,000 Angus Open Heifer in
Denver 2006**



Animal Science 101 Students



**Animal Science 305
judging steers**