

AN133

Animal Handling, Welfare and Ethics

3 Credits

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AN133 Version: 8



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Calendar Description

This course is an introduction to livestock handling and restraint. Efficient and low-stress handling techniques are presented and demonstrated to promote safety of both the handler and livestock. Students are required to work with herds and flocks during the lab sessions to gain confidence and proficiency. Along with discussions on the responsibilities of livestock care providers, the topic of animal welfare is introduced and current issues are debated in class. Welfare and ethics discussions focus on production issues, but may also include the recreation, research, draft and companion animal industries.

Rationale

This is a required course for the Animal Science Technology program. It is important that students obtain a hands-on experience with regard to safe and humane methods of handling livestock. This course is a foundation for advanced courses where restraining, relocating and humane treatment of livestock are required.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. demonstrate safe and low-stress restraint and handling of livestock
2. identify stressors and abnormal behaviour patterns in livestock and implement solutions to alleviate these problems
3. develop a livestock handling system that incorporates new theories and technologies with relevance to low-stress handling

4. recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to livestock handling, welfare and ethics and describe their role in the industry
5. communicate effectively with different organized groups in animal welfare

Resource Materials

Required Texts:

Grandin, T., & Deesing, M. (2008). *Humane livestock handling*. North Adams, MA.: Storey Publishing.

National Farm Animal Care Council. (2012). *Codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals*. Retrieved from <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>

Alberta Farm Animal Care. 2013. Humane Handling Guidelines. Retrieved from: <http://www.afac.ab.ca/producer-info>

Reference Texts

Grandin, T. (2010). *Improving animal welfare: A practical approach*. Cambridge, MA.: CAB International.

Conduct of Course

42 hours of lecture (approximate)

28 hours of scheduled lab time for Animal Science Technology, students may be required to schedule additional lab time to master competency if required.

The lecture time involves note taking, videos, guest lectures and discussion. The lab portion involves individual or group work with assigned livestock to complete required tasks. Students must have a lab monitor present when working with their animal (unless stated otherwise by the instructor), and must never work alone with an animal outside of class time.

Lab Requirements:

- I) Clothing: Students must wear coveralls in lab. Coveralls are required to be in good condition and *clean*. Coveralls are not to be worn outside of the lab facility (i.e. in the classroom).

II) Footwear: Students must wear washable, steel toe, non-slip footwear. Students not wearing appropriate footwear are not allowed in labs.

Dirty footwear must be cleaned and disinfected when leaving farm facilities, and when entering animal barns. Boot washes are available for this, and must be utilized. Students not adhering to basic hygiene regulations may be excused from lab participation.

III) Extras: Decorative jewelry and related items may not be worn during labs or at any time while working with livestock. Cell phones are not to be used for personal use during labs.

IV) Improper conduct in lab is not tolerated. Students may be asked to leave at the instructor's discretion.

Evaluation Procedures

Evaluation procedures are outlined below and may be subject to minor changes with the consent of students.

Assignments and Projects	25%
Midterm	20%
Lab Assignments	15%
Practical Lab Exam	15%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Classroom and laboratory attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the students' evaluation as examinations and reports.

- a. Students having a combination of excused and/or unexcused absence of 20 percent or higher for the scheduled course hours will be required to withdraw

and will automatically receive a "RW" (required withdrawal) for the course, regardless of any other evaluation results. (RW is a failing grade.)

- b. An excused absence is one that is verified with your Instructor. Verification should be prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence. Verification of the absence may take the form of a note from your doctor/College nurse regarding illness, or a note from another Instructor regarding a field trip or other activity, or authorization by your Instructor. An unexcused absence is anything NOT verified by the instructor prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence.

NOTE: Any exceptions to the above attendance policy (e.g. timetable conflicts, work-related issues) must be approved in writing by the Department Chair prior to the beginning of the course.

It is the students' responsibility to know their own absentee record.

Normal hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with potential for evening courses, exams or extended field trips. Students are expected to be available for classes during these times.

Course Units/Topics

Unit I	Safe Handling of Livestock
Unit II	Animal Behaviour
Unit III	Low Stress Management
Unit IV	Managing Animal Movement
Unit V	Livestock Facilities
Unit VI	Government Laws and Codes of Practice
UnitVII	Animal Welfare



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