

**ANS 3246
Beef Practicum
Fall 2025**

Instructor:

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Schedule:

Lab: M 7th – 9th periods at the Beef Teaching Unit
Office Hours: M 1-2 pm at the Beef Teaching Unit

Course Description:

Students participate in beef cattle production systems under close supervision of faculty and staff. Students gain knowledge of best management practices regarding cattle handling, tractor and equipment use, as well as cattle hauling by participating in experiential learning opportunities.

Course Objectives:

Beef Practicum is a 2 credit “hands on” course that is designed to be taken concurrently with ANS 4243C (fall) and ANS 4245 (spring). This lab is focused on animal handling, behavior, and health care as it relates to beef cattle. It is designed to give students a chance to practice real world techniques and management practices utilized daily in the beef cattle industry.

The course is offered for reoccurring credit (2 per semester, maximum of 2 semesters) in the spring and fall semesters. The fall semester will focus on hands on practicum activities and the spring semester will focus on short class trips to local producers. At the conclusion of the practicum, students will be able to:

1. Understand cattle psychology and demonstrate proper handling techniques utilizing basic and advanced handling facilities.
2. Understand and demonstrate proper techniques for vaccination, castration, dehorning, weighing, calving, condition scoring, aging, valuing, buying and selling of beef cattle.

Course Pre-requisites: Junior standing and currently enrolled in ANS 4243 or 4245

Grading Policy:

- Final course grade will be based on lab attendance, participation in the course. Participation in the discussion and hands on activities are essential in this course. This will be based on observations by the instructor and teaching assistants.
 - Attendance and Participation for Labs Attended = 10 points maximum per lab; 120 points maximum per semester**

Level of Participation in Lab	Points Possible
Attended lab and participated freely and volunteered without hesitation	9-10
Attended lab, but student had to be asked to participate on a regular basis	7-8
Attended lab, but slow to participate and had to be strongly encouraged to be involved with multiple absences	5-6
Attended lab, but often did not participate	3-4
Attended lab, but failed to participate	1-2
Did not attend lab	0

Each week students will be graded on a 0 – 10 scale following the rubric above. A minimum of zero points will be assigned to students on labs they fail to attend and a maximum of 10 points will be assigned to students who attended and participated freely in that week's lab. A maximum of 120 total points may be used to calculate a student's lab grade for attendance and participation throughout the semester. With 13 labs per semester, this will allow for the lowest lab grade to be dropped in the case of an absence(s) or poor score. If a student has more than 1 excused absences or emergencies consistent with university policies, then the student must make arrangements with the instructor for make-up assignments or assessments as soon as possible.

*Note: Requirements for class attendance and make-up practicum assessments, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

2.Total Points = 120 points maximum

Final Grade % (non-negotiable)

> 90.0%	= A	72.5 - 77.4	= C
87.5 - 89.9	= B+	70.0 - 72.4	= C-
82.5 - 87.4	= B	67.5 - 69.9	= D+
80.0 - 82.4	= B-	60.0 - 67.4	= D

77.5 - 79.9 = C+

60.0 – 62.5 = D-

< 60.0 = E

3. Text: No text required

Additional supplemental readings may be used during lab, but will be provided by the instructor. Examples, include:

- https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_cull_cow_beef_quality_issues
- <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an289>
- <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an319>
- <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an226>
- <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an305>
- <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an129>

4. Holidays September 1, 2025 Labor day

Subjects to be covered throughout the course include but are not limited to the following:

Cattle handling safety
Handling vaccines
Administration of dewormer
Selection of needles
Techniques for castration
Techniques for dehorning
Utilization of a manual squeeze chute
Utilization of a hydraulic squeeze chute
Feeder calf value
Feeding management
Calving and calf care
Forage evaluation
Trailer loading and hauling
Flight zone
Point of balance
Antibiotic utilization
Marketing cattle
Heifer selection
Cattle identification
Implant administration
Blood and fecal sampling
Cattle restraint
Bull selection and ultrasound
Beef Quality Assurance

RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF LIVESTOCK:

Working with livestock is inherently *risky*. Many of these animals are capable of injuring

people, especially when they are in the *fight or flight* mode inspired by a stressful situation. The instructors will work to provide students with the ability to manage livestock with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and animals.

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

[required for online courses, list all technology used]

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)