

**ANS 4243C**  
**Beef Cow/Calf Management**  
**Fall 2023**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Todd Thrift  
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**Teaching Assistants:**

None

**Schedule:**

Lectures:        T R     Period 3 (9:35 - 10:25 am)        BTU south

Discussion:     R        Period 8-10 (3:00 - 6:00 pm)     BTU south

Office Hours:   Open door policy

**Course Description:**

Beef cow/calf management is a senior level “capstone” course for the Beef Industry curriculum in the Animal Sciences Major. It is designed to assimilate information learned in prerequisite courses into management systems. The course will focus on the commercial cow/calf production with emphasis on application of nutrition, reproduction, genetics, health, marketing, and financial management.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To gain an understanding of the beef cattle industry in the state of Florida, the United States, and the World.
2. To describe roles of the major beef breeds as well as equipment, identification, nutrition, reproduction, genetics, health, marketing, taxation, and management concepts relative to the beef cattle industry.
3. To understand the future direction of the beef cattle industry and how change may affect beef production.

## Grading Policy:

1. Final course grade will be based on percentage of total points earned (total points will be based on hour examinations, homework, magazine article reviews, and final examination).

	Points		Percentage
Hourly exam 1	150		37.5
Hourly exam 2	150		37.5
Homework (~5 assignments)	50		12.5
Magazine article reviews (10)	50		12.5
Total	400		100

### 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

2. Final examination, which all students have to take, will be given on a date and during a time period specified in the University Class schedule.
3. Hour examinations will be given at specified intervals during the semester. If the hour exam is not taken at a specified time due to illness, the student must provide the instructor with a signed doctors excuse.
4. Unannounced pop quizzes may be given in lecture or lab. Quiz points will be bonus points. No make up quizzes will be given.
5. Attendance to lecture or discussion is not required. No penalty will be imposed for absence; however, students are responsible for material covered in class.
6. Review and summary of a popular press article will be required weekly. The summary should be handwritten (must be readable and neat), between 3/4 to 1 page in length, due on **THURSDAYS** at the **BEGINNING** of lab. The summary must review the facts presented in the article **and should end with a couple of sentences on how the information presented might apply to the Florida Beef Industry.**

Acceptable magazines for review are listed below (This list is not inclusive and other magazines are acceptable as long as they apply to the beef industry).

Agricultural Research	Feedlot	Meat International
Angus Journal	Feedstuffs	National Cattlemen
Angus Beef Bulletin	Gelbvieh World	Progressive Farmer
Beef	Gulf Coast Cattleman	Santa Gertrudis USA
Beef Today	Hay and Forage Grower	The Cattleman
Braford News	Hereford World	The Florida Cattleman
Cattle Today	Limousin World	The Beefmaster Cowman
Drovers Journal	Livestock Weekly	Western Livestock Journal

**Text:** No text is required. Supplemental reading may be handed out during class or lab.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Date		Subject
08/24	Lecture	Introduction/Syllabus Overview How did the FL beef cattle industry get started? -History of beef industry in FL
08/24	Lecture	How did the rest of the beef industry evolve? -History of the Beef Industry in the United States
08/29	Lecture	How is the beef industry structured? -Overview of beef cattle industry –structure, industry targets
08/31	Lecture	How is the beef industry structured? -Overview of beef cattle industry –structure, industry targets
08/31	Lecture	Where are the cows in FL, the US, and World? -Global beef production -Comparison and contrast of beef production practices
09/5	Lecture	Why isn't the beef industry vertically integrated? -Discussion of industry structure, current and future trends How are cattle different than other creatures? -Common cattle characteristics What traits are important in beef production? -Placing selection emphasis on different traits
09/7	Lecture	What is a genetic antagonism? -Common antagonisms that hinder selection progress
09/7	Lecture	Should all of my calves grade choice? -Utilization of carcass data to make selection decisions
09/12	Lecture	Is my cow too big? -Discussion of cow size and milk production
09/14	Lecture	How heavy should my weaning weight be? -Economics of weaning weight and value of gain -Discussion on age at weaning What are the implications of high reproductive rates and heavy calf crops? -Cost and benefits of improving lbs calf weaned/cow exposed

09/14	Lecture	Which breed do I choose? -Breed evaluation/utilization -Breed vs Type
09/19	Lecture	Which breed do I choose? -Breed evaluation/utilization -Breed vs Type -Functional traits
09/21	Lecture	What is hybrid vigor and how can I take advantage of it? -Discussion of crossbreeding potential
9/21	Lecture	Should I straightbreed or crossbreed? -Planning a breeding program
9/26	Lecture	Should I straightbreed or crossbreed? -Planning a breeding program
9/28	Lecture	What is a composite? -Discussion of alternative mating plans
9/28	Lecture	How much ear do I need in my cow? -Discussion of adaptability to hot humid conditions
10/3	Lecture	Which heifers should I keep as replacements? How old are my cows? -Determining age of cows
10/5	Lecture	What are the keys to good reproductive success in my cowherd? -Calving span, %Calf Crop,
10/5	Lecture	How am I ever going to pass this test? <b>-EXAM 1 SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b>
10/10	Lecture	When should my cows calve? -Calving season selection and management
10/12	Lecture	What is the Non fed Beef Quality Audit? -BQA application to cull cow management
10/12	Lecture	How should I manage my heifers? -Replacement heifer selection and management
10/17	Lecture	How should I manage my heifers? -Replacement heifer selection and management
10/19	Lecture	Should I purchase or raise my replacement heifers? -Economics of replacement females

10/19	Lecture	Replacement female options continued
10/24	Lecture	How should I sell my calves? What is a slide? Should I retained ownership? What is a breakeven?
10/26	Lecture	How do I use data to help me make selection decisions? -Utilizing EPDs, frame score, weights, carcass data, etc.
10/26	Lecture	How should I manage my bulls? -Bull management for commercial cow calf producers -Utilization of yearling bulls -Utilization of un-adapted bulls -Breeding soundness of bulls
10/31	Lecture	Bull Management cont
11/2	Lecture	How do I use data to help me make selection decisions? Cont. -Utilizing EPDs, frame score, weights, carcass data, etc.
11/2	Lecture	How do I use all this data to pick a bull?
11/7	Lecture	How do I use all this data to pick a bull?
11/9	Lecture	How do I use all this data to pick a bull?
11/9	Lecture	How do I use all this data to pick a bull?
11/14	Lecture	What vaccines should I give my cows? -Vaccination theory -Bovine diseases -Designing a herd health program
11/16	Lecture	What is Beef Quality Assurance? -Culling cows
11/16	Lecture	What is Beef Quality Assurance? -Avoiding antibiotic and chemical residues
11/21	Lecture	What is Beef Quality Assurance? -Proper injection administration -Processing map
11/23	Lecture	How much leftover turkey can I eat? -Thanksgiving Break
11/23	Lecture	How much leftover turkey can I eat? -Thanksgiving Break

11/28	Lecture	What are the hot issues? -Overview of beef issues, i.e., food safety, environment -Future trends in the beef industry
11/30	Lecture	Where is the beef industry headed?
11/30	Lecture	Course wrap up
12/5	Lecture	Course wrap up
12/7- 12/8	Trip	Tentative field Trip to South FL
12/11	FINAL	When is this ever going to end? - <b>FINAL EXAM 3:00pm</b> -???????????????

**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.

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STUDENTS FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!**

Grades and Grade Points For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

Attendance and Make-Up Work Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

For online course with recorded materials a statement informing students of privacy related issues such as: Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action



instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040  
Student

Online Course Evaluation Process Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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.

Services for Students with Disabilities The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Campus Helping Resources Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

#### Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.