

# *Ranch Horse Management*

## *ANS3239L Spring 2025*

**Instructors:**

Joel McQuagge  
210B Animal Science Bldg.  
Ph: Office: 392-6363, Cell 352-538-3536  
e-mail: [mcquagge@ufl.edu](mailto:mcquagge@ufl.edu)

Jesse Savell  
UF Beef Teaching Unit  
Cell: 352-494-3397  
e-mail: [sanspur@ufl.edu](mailto:sanspur@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: McQuagge M, W 8:00 – 10:20  
Please call for an appointment as my schedule varies.

**Teaching Assistant:** Allyson Trimble      [trimbleak@ufl.edu](mailto:trimbleak@ufl.edu)

**Department Chair:**

Dr. John Arthington  
100 Animal Science Bldg.  
Ph: 392-1911

**Teaching Assistant:**

T.B.A.  
Office Hours: TA's are available before or after class for consultation

**Course Format:**

2 credits; Tuesday, Thursday; 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> periods: 12:50 – 2:45 PM

**Course Overview:**

Introduction to the management and use of horses in cow-calf, stocker and feedlot operations.

**Prerequisites:**

Instructor permission.

**Course Description:**

Ranch Horse Management is two-credit “hands-on” course designed to teach and give students an opportunity to practice real-world techniques and management practices utilized in the equine and beef cattle industries.

Students enrolling in the course should have a demonstrated career interest in the beef cattle industry. Students must also display adequate horse riding skills prior to enrollment permission.

## Course Objectives:

1. Compare how horses are best utilized by cow-calf, stocker and feedlot operations.
2. Develop and improve skills used by ranches employing horses on a daily basis.
3. Demonstrate how to manage horses with cattle.
4. Demonstrate ranch horse safety and examine the effects of employee injury on Worker's Comp costs.
5. Explore how horses are used by ranches in different parts of the country.
6. Develop skills and experience necessary for a successful internship involving the use of horses to work cattle.

## Topics

Week 1 - Orientation & Ranch horse safety

Week 2 - Horse psychology & training

Week 3 - Saddle fitting and tack selection

Week 3 - Feeds & nutritional management for ranch horses **2/23/25** Dr. Lori Warren

Week 4 - Vaccination programs and Health Care

Week 4 - Shoeing and hoof care for work horses Mr. Bruce Martin

Week 5 - Cattle behavior and flight zones

Week 6 - Starting horses on cattle and cattle on horses

Week 6 - Trailering and hauling horses with cattle

Week 7 - Utilizing dogs with horses

Week 7 - Breeding and selection for ranch horses

Week 8 - Creating value in a ranch horse

Week 8 - Managing risk on the ranch, workplace safety and worker's comp

Weeks 9 & 10 - Gathering, sorting and moving cattle in a pasture

Weeks 11 - Moving and sorting cattle in a lane

Weeks 12 & 13 - Roping in a pen

Week 14 - Roping & doctoring in the pasture

## Grading:

### Three 20-point quizzes

*Quiz Dates 2/23, 3/16, 4/20*

**60% Total Grade.**

### Ranch Report

**20% Total Grade**

Each student will evaluate and critique the horse program of an established ranch that utilizes horses on a daily basis.

The report should be ~8 pages in length and address:

- Type of operation: cow calf, stocker, feeder
- Cowboy owned or ranch provided horses
- Horse selection process

- Health and feeding programs
- Horse training program and responsibilities
- Safety and insurance

**Participation and Progress**

**20% Total Grade**

1. 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 = 5 points maximum per lab; 130 points maximum per semester**

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

Each day students will be graded on a 0 – 5 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 5 points will be assigned to students who attended and participated freely in that week’s lab. After each lab, students will receive notice of their lab score so they have the opportunity to improve their score in subsequent labs. A maximum of 145 total points may be used to calculate a student’s lab grade for attendance and participation throughout the semester. With approximately 29 labs per semester, this will allow for two dropped lab grades in the case of an absence(s). If a student has more than 2 absences for 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.

A = 90-100%

B + = 85-89.9%

B = 80-84.9%

C + = 75-79.9%

C = 70-74.9%

D + = 65-69.9%

D = 60-64.9%

E = <60%

**Field Trip:**

This class *might* take a field trip during the semester to Texas to learn from producers that employ horses in their operation.

*2025 Potential Tour Stops:*

*Amarillo Brokerage Company Amarillo, TX*

*Kirkland Feedyard Vega, TX*

*JBS Coronado Feedyard Dalhart, TX*

*Tongue River Ranch Paducah, TX*

*Williamson Brothers Cattle Co. Benjamin, TX*

*R.A. Brown Ranch Throckmorton, TX*

*6666 Ranch Guthrie, TX*

*Swenson Ranch Stamford, TX*

*Pitchfork Ranch Guthrie, TX*

**Cooperators:**

This class will utilize a group of ranch cooperators to provide feedback on topics. This group may also serve as a source for guest lecturers/demonstrators.

**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 *flight or fight* 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.

**GRADES AND GRADE POINTS**

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**ABSENCES 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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

**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/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

### **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, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

### **CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being 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.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)*
  - Counseling Services
  - Groups and Workshops
  - Outreach and Consultation
  - Self-Help Library
  - Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, [www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)*

- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>

### **Student Complaints**

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

**Course Fee-** This course carries a course fee of \$290.48 in addition to tuition.

### **Online Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) 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 [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#)