

ANS 3246
Beef Practicum
Spring 2025

Instructor:

Dr. Todd Thrift
210C Animal Science Bldg., North (Bldg. 459)
392-8597 office
tathrift@ufl.edu

BTU manager:

Jesse Savell
sanspur@ufl.edu
352-494-3397 cell

Schedule:

Lab: M 7th – 9th periods at the Beef Teaching Unit
Office Hours: Open door policy

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:

1. 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 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.

*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:

Beef Quality Assurance Handbook will be provided by instructor. 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 January 20, 2025 MLK 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.

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/>.

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.

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 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

Counseling Services

Groups and Workshops

Outreach and Consultation

Self-Help Library

Wellness Coaching

U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/

Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.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/>.

Online Course: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>