

Livestock Production

Local Course #: 81108

State Course ID: 13000300

Course Description:

In Livestock Production, students will acquire knowledge and skills related to livestock and the livestock production industry. Livestock Production may address topics related to beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry. To prepare for careers in the field of animal science, students must attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire knowledge and skills related to animal systems and the workplace, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings.

Link to TEKS:

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sboe-rules-tac/sboe-tac-currently-in-effect/ch130a.pdf>

First 9 Weeks Major Topics:

Unit 1 – Introduction to the Livestock Industry

Covers the history, scope, and economic importance of livestock production in agriculture. Students explore major livestock species, industry terminology, breed identification, and career opportunities. Emphasis is placed on understanding production sectors such as cow-calf, feedlot, dairy, swine, poultry, and sheep/goat operations.

Second 9 Weeks Major Topics:

Unit 2 – Animal Science & Husbandry

Focuses on the biology and care of livestock, including anatomy, physiology, reproduction, nutrition, and genetics. Students learn proper animal handling techniques, health management, and preventative care practices. Hands-on activities may include feed formulation, body condition scoring, and basic veterinary skills.

Third 9 Weeks Major Topics:

Unit 3 – Production Systems & Management

Covers the design, operation, and management of different livestock production systems. Topics include housing and facilities, breeding programs, recordkeeping, biosecurity, and environmental stewardship. Students learn how to evaluate efficiency, productivity, and profitability in various production models.

Fourth 9 Weeks Major Topics:

Unit 4 – Marketing, Economics, & Industry Issues

Explores how livestock products move from farm to consumer, including marketing channels, grading standards, pricing, and value-added opportunities. Students examine current trends, consumer demands, animal welfare concerns, and regulatory issues impacting the industry. The unit culminates in developing a basic business or marketing plan for a livestock enterprise.