AN EQ 478 – Beef Systems
Course Syllabus   Fall Semester, 2017

1. Course coordinator: Dr. Jason K. Ahola, Ph.D.  Office: 970-491-3312
   Rm 018 Animal Sciences Bldg (basement)  jason.ahola@colostate.edu
   Email is usually the best way to contact me – please put “ANEQ 478” in subject.
   Note: There will be several guest lecturers during the semester to provide
different aspects and viewpoints related to the disciplines of beef production.

2. Teaching Assistants: Meredith Harrison (M.S. Graduate Student)  Cell: 812-343-5127
   Basement An Sci Bldg (east end)  meredithaharrison4@gmail.com

3. Office hours: 9:30-10:45 am T,R (before class) in 018 Animal Sciences. Otherwise by appt.

4. Time/place: Lecture:  T, R 11:00 to 11:50 am, room C248 Clark Building
   Lab:  R 1:00 to 2:40 pm, E203 Engineering or other location

5. Prerequisites: This course will be taught with the assumption that students have mastered
material from: ANEQ 250, 310, 313, 320, 330, and 360; and SC 320/RS 300.

   Prentice Hall. Available at: CSU Bookstore, on-line (Amazon), etc.
   Optional: Cow-Calf Management Guide & Cattle Producer’s Library
   2nd Edition, 2009, Western Beef Resource Committee
   Available at: www.avs.uidaho.edu/wbrc/samples.html or library (SF207.C68)

7. Course objectives:
   In addition to gaining an appreciation for the complexity and dynamic nature of the beef industry, each
student will:
   a) Evaluate the beef cattle industry from the perspective of a complete supply chain system
   b) Know the cause-and-effect relationships within the entire beef production system that influence
cattle productivity, efficiency, profitability, and end-product quality
   c) Connect concepts from their total academic experience so far by applying knowledge in an
   integrated manner to the challenges confronting cow/calf production
   d) Evaluate, benchmark, and analyze an existing cow/calf enterprise and communicate the results
   and recommendations via written and oral reports, possibly in a teamwork environment
   e) Integrate existing knowledge with new information to clearly understand beef production

8. Course expectations:
   a) Students will attend all class and lab sessions
   b) Students will interact with their fellow students and class facilitator(s)
   c) Students will work independently and in teams
   d) Students will produce a final project that represents the highest quality work of their career
   e) Students will read and study outside of class
   f) Students will integrate material that may not coincide with previous or subsequent lectures
   (mostly due to the use of guest lecturers)
9. **This course is a work in progress** (as all courses should be!)
   - This course evolves yearly to support the department’s curriculum, incorporate students’ suggestions and interests, and include interests/ideas of the instructors and guest lecturers.
   - My goal is to provide the most useful and engaging instruction possible. Therefore, I encourage constructive criticism, alternatives, and suggestions to improve the course.

10. **Grading and evaluation:**
    - Three exams (500 pts total) – Exam 1 = 150 pts, Exam 2 = 150 pts, Final Exam = 200 pts
    - Announced & unannounced quizzes (100 pts total) – includes in-class assignments, attendance quizzes
    - Five homeworks worth 20 pts each (100 pts total) – if late, 10% discount per day late
    - Management Paper (250 pts) – due Nov 16th by 5:00 pm (if late, 10% discount per day late)
    - Oral presentation (50 pts)
    - **There will be no make-ups for tests or quizzes,** except in very rare circumstances with written 3rd party verification of unavoidable circumstances, including emergencies.
    - **Weighting for grades:**
      - 3 Exams 500 pts
      - Quizzes (includes in-class assignments) 100 pts
      - Homework 100 pts
      - Management Paper 250 pts
      - Oral Presentation 50 pts
      - **Total:** 1,000 pts

    - Grading:
      - A 93.0 or higher  
        - C+ 77.0 to 79.9
      - A- 90.0 to 92.9  
        - C 73.0 to 76.9
      - B+ 87.0 to 89.9  
        - C- 70.0 to 72.9
      - B 83.0 to 86.9  
        - D 60.0 to 69.9
      - B- 80.0 to 82.9  
        - F Less than 60.0

    - Please communicate with me **as soon as possible** if you know that you will be **unable to attend any** lectures or labs (including conflicts for judging team contests) during the semester. Most conflicts are known within the first week of class, thus last-minute notice will not be tolerated.

11. **Additional library resources** to supplement the information provided in class and in discussion/lab sessions that will especially be of value in development of a first-rate management paper:
    - The Evolving Science of Grassland Improvement, Humphreys (SB199.H84)
    - Factors Affecting Calf Crop, Fields and Sand (SF201.F33)
    - Forages – Vol. I and II, Barnes, et al. (SB193.F64)
    - Holistic Management, Savory (HC79.E5.S2823)

12. **Important due dates:**
    - August 24  
      - Student information form and Permission form (HW 1)
    - September 7  
      - Team members and ranch identified for management paper
    - October 5  
      - Management paper Base Information form and Assessment Form – 1st draft (HW 2)
    - October 12  
      - Heifer development worksheet (HW 3)
    - October 19  
      - Ration development worksheet (HW 4)
    - October 26  
      - Management paper Progress Report and Assessment Form – 2nd draft (HW 5)
    - November 16  
      - Final Management Paper (by 5:00 pm) and Evaluation Form for contributors
13. Packer-Feeder Trading Game

- In cooperation with Dr. Steve Koontz and his AREC 412 course (Agricultural Commodities Marketing), all ANEQ 478 students will be required to participate in at least one day of The Fed Cattle Market Simulator – a cash and futures market trading simulation between feedlot and meat packing operations (aka the “Packer-Feeder Trading Game”). This day-long activity will take place on 2 different Saturdays during the semester – sometime between late-September and mid-November. Dates will be set based on the result of a vote and consensus of the students and instructors of both courses (and won’t be on a home football game weekend). This is important because a critical number of participants are necessary for this activity to be successful. Participants will gain approximately 6 months of market experience in the 1 day (plus, real money rewards are involved!). Previous ANEQ 478 classes have communicated that this activity is an essential part of the course.
- If you are absolutely not able to attend either Saturday event, you will be required to write a 7-page report on a current beef industry topic (approved by the instructor) using at least 3 scientific articles plus others from popular press. The paper is due by the final day of class. Students who fail to submit a satisfactory paper by the deadline will receive an “F” for their course grade.

14. Participation

- Because interactive participation is very subjective, students will not earn participation points per se. However, unannounced quizzes will be given, particularly if attendance is low.
- Students who are positive, proactive, engaged in the course, problem solvers, respectful of due dates, and attend class will gain the most from this course, and will get the best grades.

15. Academic Integrity and Misconduct

- This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the General Catalog (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/) and the Student Conduct Code (http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and the student will be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.
- It is crucial, and expected by the instructor and your fellow students, that all work you generate during this course is original, including all parts of the Management Project Paper and Oral Presentation. In addition to plagiarism, academic misconduct also includes cheating. Either is a basis for disciplinary action, and the instructor will report all cases of academic dishonesty to the proper university authorities.
- Students are expected to abide by the CSU Student Honor Code, approved by ASCSU and CSU faculty and staff in 2009. The code states: “As a student at Colorado State University, I recognize my active role in building a campus of character. This includes my commitment to honesty, integrity, and responsibility within the campus community. As such, I will refrain from acts of academic misconduct.”
- For info on practicing academic integrity: http://learning.colostate.edu/integrity/index.cfm

16. Final Exam Time Conflict

- If you have 3 or more final exams scheduled on the same day of finals week, you can request that the time for 1 of those exams be changed. However, you must make this request before September 1, 2017 if you would like to request that your ANEQ 478 final exam be changed.

17. Schedule changes to topics or meeting locations:

- Since not all speakers and labs have been confirmed for the entire semester, announcements will be made during lecture or lab regarding changes to presentation topics or meeting locations.