

Animal and Range Sciences Department
Agricultural Animal Care Training Program

October 2015 [DRAFT]

Goals

The goals of the Agricultural Animal Care Training Program are to ensure animal well-being, the validity and effectiveness of research and teaching activities, and the health and safety of animal care personnel.

Overview

The Agricultural Animal Care Training Program includes three categories (A, B, C), with two levels of certification within category A.

Category A includes all temporary farm employees and all graduate students that work with animals.

Level I certification is required of all individuals in category A.

Level II certification is required of all individuals in category A that may be given unsupervised responsibility for animal care – e.g., weekend or holiday responsibilities, or supervisory responsibility.

Category B includes all permanent farm employees.

Category C includes all faculty and staff that have responsibilities or projects dealing with animals, excluding permanent farm employees.

Maintenance of certification shall be achieved via annual mandatory update/training sessions administered by the Department. Records of employee certification shall be filed in the Department Main office.

Category A - Temporary farm employees and graduate students who work with animals.

Level-I Certification

1. View videos 1 and 2 of the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) Farm Animal Worker Training Program.
2. Read chapters 1 (Institutional Policies), 2 (General Guidelines for Animal Husbandry), 3 (Agricultural Animal Health Care), and 4 (Physical Plant) of FASS Ag Guide.
3. Read Animal and Range Sciences Department's:
 - a. General Livestock Husbandry Policies and Procedures.
 - b. Farm and Ranch Operations Policies.
 - c. Signs and Symptoms of Animal Disease, Pain and Injury.
 - d. Agricultural Animal Worker Health and Safety Plan.
4. Pass a written exam based on the material listed above.

Level-II Certification

1. Read chapters 5 (beef cattle), 7 (horses), and 9 (sheep and goats) of FASS Ag Guide.
2. Read components of current Animal and Range Sciences Farm and Ranch Management Plan pertaining to management and health of livestock (available from Department Head or Farm Manager).

3. Pass a written exam based on the material listed above.
4. Beef Quality Assurance certification (available through Animal and Range Sciences Extension).

Category B – Permanent farm employees.

Category B includes the expectation of advanced education, training, and experience in livestock husbandry as listed in the job descriptions for these positions.

1. View videos 1 and 2 of FASS Farm Animal Worker Training Program.
2. Read chapters 1 (Institutional Policies), 2 (General Guidelines for Animal Husbandry), 3 (Agricultural Animal Health Care), 4 (Physical Plant), 5 (beef cattle), 7 (horses), 9 (sheep and goats), and 10 (swine) of FASS Ag Guide.
3. Read Animal and Range Sciences Department's:
 - a. General Livestock Husbandry Policies and Procedures.
 - b. Farm and Ranch Operations Policies.
 - c. Signs and Symptoms of Animal Disease, Pain and Injury.
 - d. Agricultural Animal Worker Health and Safety Plan.
4. Read components of current Animal and Range Sciences Farm and Ranch Management Plan pertaining to management and health of livestock (available from Department Head or Farm Manager).
5. Pass a written exam based on the material listed above.
6. Beef Quality Assurance certification (available through Animal and Range Sciences Extension).

Category C – Faculty and Staff who work with animals, excluding permanent farm employees.

Category C includes the expectation of advanced education in animal science and related research and teaching experience.

1. View videos 1 and 2 of FASS Farm Animal Worker Training Program.
2. Read chapters 1 (Institutional Policies), 2 (General Guidelines for Animal Husbandry), 3 (Agricultural Animal Health Care), 4 (Physical Plant), 5 (beef cattle), 7 (horses), and 9 (sheep and goats) of FASS Ag Guide.
3. Read Animal and Range Sciences Department's:
 - a. General Livestock Husbandry Policies and Procedures.
 - b. Farm and Ranch Operations Policies.
 - c. Signs and Symptoms of Animal Disease, Pain and Injury.
 - d. Agricultural Animal Worker Health and Safety Plan.
4. Pass a written exam based on the material listed above.

Maintenance of Certification Using Annual Updates and Training

1. Review of:
 - a. General Livestock Husbandry Policies and Procedures (Department Head).
 - b. Farm and Ranch Operations Policies (Department Head).
 - c. Animal management components of farm management plan (Farm Manager and Consulting Veterinarian).

- d. Health and safety guidelines (Farm Manager, Consulting Veterinarian, and representative of MSU Safety and Risk Management).
2. Discussion of current issues and concerns with Department Head, Farm Manager and Consulting Veterinarian.

Reference

GUIDE for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, First Revised Edition, Federation of Animal Science Societies, First Revised Edition, January, 1999.

Animal and Range Sciences Department
Signs and Symptoms of Animal Disease, Pain and Injury
Modified from MSU-IACUC Website

Introduction

Animal well-being has both physical and psychological components. No single objective measurement exists that can be used to evaluate the health and well-being of animals. Recognition of pain or discomfort in animals is frequently more difficult than in humans and assessment can be affected by many complicating factors including animal age, nature and frequency of human contact, and control of visual, auditory, olfactory and tactile stimuli. Assessment should be made in relation to the prior condition of the animal and compared to what is known about the normal behavior and activity for the species and breed. Experience in observing and caring for animals is extremely important to accurate assessment of animal well-being.

General Physical Condition

- Hair loss
- Lack of appetite
- Low or no water consumption
- Excessive water consumption
- Abscess
- Blood in feces or on bedding or pen surface
- Constipation
- Diarrhea or abnormal feces
- Coughing or sneezing
- Abnormal discharge from any body orifice
- Difficult breathing
- Abnormal skin color (e.g., gums, eyelids)
- Growth retardation
- Listless appearance
- Dull or closed eyes
- Parasites visible in feces or on skin
- Rough hair coat
- Excessive salivation
- Scratching
- Tumor(s)

Evidence of Injury

- Abnormal muscular coordination
 - Bruises
 - Convulsions
 - Dilated pupils
 - Bleeding
 - Limping
 - Partial or complete paralysis
 - Wounds
- **Symptoms of Pain**
- Attraction to area of pain (e.g., licking, biting, scratching, shaking, or “guarding” of a particular body area).
 - Restlessness/anxiety (e.g., frequent changing of position or pacing).
 - Abnormal respiratory sounds (e.g., grunting).
 - Increased respiratory rate.
 - Decreased skeletal muscle tone.
 - Limping.
 - Reluctance to move, stilted gait or hobbling.
 - Loss of appetite.
 - Dramatic change in behavior.
 - Subjective changes in attitude, brightness of the eyes, appearance of hair coat, abnormal posture.