

Animal Handling, Welfare and Ethics

Course Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate safe and low-stress restraint and handling of various classes of livestock
2. Identify stressors and abnormal behaviour patterns in livestock and implement solutions to alleviate these problems and provide adequate care.
3. Demonstrate safe and low stress handling of herds/flocks applying natural animal movement and behaviour concepts.
4. Design a livestock handling system incorporating theories and technologies with relevance to low-stress and safe handling
5. Communicate and navigate with individuals regarding animal welfare topics.

Course Material:

1. "Temple Grandin's: Guide to Working with Farm Animals"
2. Lakeland College Working Labs

Course Objectives:

Unit 1: Safe and Low Stress Handling of Livestock (Chapter 3)

1. Describe how Temple Grandin's approach to stockmanship resulted in positive change in North America's livestock industry
2. Discuss the life of Bud Williams, his guiding philosophies and explain his local connection to the Lloydminster area
3. Discuss Curt Pate's approach to stockmanship and his areas of expertise.
4. List the three central elements of good stockmanship and explain what is meant by each element
5. Discuss the four common causes of injury to livestock handlers
6. List several reasons why livestock may become aggressive to humans
7. Recognize the signs of aggression in various classes of livestock
8. Explain the 3 comfort zones in prey animals and describe how they behave for each zone.
9. Identify the 3 comfort zones, the point of balance and the blind spots on a grazing animal and explain how they can be used to manage movement in an individual animal and herd.
10. List 5 instincts in cattle that can be used to the animal handler's advantage
11. Discuss helpful handling techniques for improving livestock flow handling facilities
 - a. Discuss the factors that influence the size of the flight zone for a livestock animal
 - b. Explain how a prey animal's 'Point of Balance' can be used to manage herd movement
 - c. Demonstrate how the 'Loose Bunching' herd instinct is used when initiating herd movement
 - d. Explain how momentum can be used
 - e. Teaching good manners

Unit 2: Animal Behavior

12. Discuss what is meant by the 'Science of Ethology'
13. Name and identify the subject of study of the 3 pivotal scientists that pioneered the science of ethology.

14. Explain the difference between Objectivity and Subjectivity and why it is important in the field of Ethology

15. List the 4 primal emotions of livestock
16. Discuss how an animal's perception differs from human perception and describe the differences in how the grazing animals experience the 5 senses
17. Explain how sensory memory and thinking affects behaviours in animals
18. List the three main drivers of Animal Behaviour
19. Explain what is meant by 'Heritability' and discuss how individual traits can be ranked based on research
20. Discuss the various types of learning that can occur throughout an animal's lifetime
21. Name three hormones that can affect how livestock behave and discuss their effects on the animal

22. Explain the difference between animal abuse and animal welfare and animal rights

23. List the Five Basic Freedoms of Livestock
24. List the Seven Core Emotions of Livestock and explain how they can be used to determine welfare of livestock
25. Describe the term 'Anthropomorphism' and how it can be used to determine welfare of livestock
26. Discuss how behaviour traits can be genetically linked to other observable traits in livestock
27. Explain the difference between learned behaviour and instinctual behaviour
- 28. Describe the 5 basic instinct patterns that grazing animals employ to avoid predators in nature**

Unit Bison:

1. Learn some of the key differences between cattle and bison
2. Know the signs of potential aggressive behaviour
3. Understand the importance of proper equipment and the risks associated with improper use
4. Describe the reasoning behind the loading and transport guidelines outlined
5. Know the 4 major areas of concern in regards to Welfare and Ethics for Bison
6. Understand the concept of Seasonality and the implications it has for Bison management

Unit 3: Livestock Facilities

7. Discuss the 4 levels of pressure in an alleyway and increase of pressure within each category

28. Describe what a 'Bud Box' is and explain how and why it works effectively to move livestock into alleyways

29. Work through the decision-making process to determine which type of restraint is appropriate in a given situation
30. Discuss several tools and methods that can be used to restrain livestock in different situations
31. Become familiar with different designs and features of Squeeze Chutes and Head Gates for cattle
32. Explain the advantage of a double file alley system in handling facilities
33. Identify the ideal angle of entry from a crowding area into an alleyway system
34. Create a facility that uses several of Dr. Temple Grandin's design strategies for improving flow of livestock

35. Analyze various facility designs

36. Select appropriate driving aids for use in moving livestock through handling facilities according to species
37. Discuss how vocalizations can be an indicator of stress for different species

Unit 4: Low-Stress Management

38. Explain how stress can result in decreased performance and profitability of livestock operations
39. Discuss several examples of physical stressors that can afflict livestock
40. Discuss several examples of psychological stressors that can afflict livestock
41. Describe why it is difficult to identify and measure pain in prey animals
42. List the three categories of pain that animals can experience and define each category
- 43. Evaluate validity, method and alternatives for painful procedures in livestock on any given livestock operation**
44. Explain the difference between an analgesic and an anesthetic
45. List the three classes of systemic analgesics and discuss which are most useful in painful procedures for livestock
46. Give examples of common NSAID's that are used with livestock

Unit 5: Animal Welfare – Discuss Topics Constructively

47. Discuss the main concepts of the Animal Care Committee within institutions as well as the Canadian Council on Animal Care.
48. Discuss 'the danger of snapshots' and explain the importance of fact gathering before rushing to judgment
49. Discuss the importance of being 'camera ready'
- 50. Research factual data on specific issues that are brought to the public by means of social media**
51. Explain how and why it is important for livestock producers to take an active role in regulating their industry
52. Illustrate the scope of public opinion on the topic of livestock production and recognize where various organizations fit on this scale
- 53. Discuss and describe some key things to help improve public perception of raising livestock**
54. Respectfully discuss how many concessions livestock producers should concede in order to maintain the image of the livestock industry
55. Explain who HSUS is and why they are an important organization to recognize in the livestock industry
56. Discuss how undercover videos posted to social networking sites have impacted operations of animal activist groups
 - a. Ex. Hallmark-Westland beef plant
57. Explain who PETA is and the strategies they utilize to further their anti-livestock agenda
58. Discuss who makes up AFAC and list the organization's mission, vision and guiding principles.
59. Describe some of the key takeaway points from the AFAC conference of 2015.
- 60. Explain Social License**

Government Laws & Codes of Practice

61. Describe what the 'Codes of Practice' are and who they are maintained by (resource online)
62. Discuss the humane handling guidelines by Alberta Farm Animal Care
63. List the pieces of legislation that are currently in place to protect livestock in Canada and explain the scope of each piece
64. List the maximum time intervals livestock can be transported between rest stops for each class of animal.
65. Explain the slaughter standards in Canada.

66. Explain the glass walls project

EUTHANASIA

67. Define the term 'euthanasia' and explain the difference between active and passive euthanasia

68. List the two steps to a humane euthanization

69. List the 3 vital functions that must be checked to ensure a euthanized animal has expired

70. Name the three most common techniques for humane euthanization

71. Determine the proper target for skull penetration for various types and classes of livestock

DISCUSSIONS

72. Be able to discuss the benefits of addressing conflict constructively instead of destructively

73. Be able to adjust your response depending on the individual you are talking to, taking into consideration personality type, agenda of the other party, and experience level with the livestock industry

74. Be able to list strategies that are effective in dealing with difficult people when it comes to debating emotional issues

LABS - Managing Animal Movement Unit

For every hour of contact there is 20 mins of prep and 20 mins of personal reflection

Sheep Flocking

1. Demonstrate the three central elements of good stockmanship
2. Demonstrate how to move sheet in a desired direction using the three elements and livestock comfort zones
3. Discuss the factors that influence the size of the flight zone for a livestock animal

Sheep Individual Handling

4. Demonstrate the three central elements of good stockmanship
5. Demonstrate how to effectively flip a ewe, check her teeth and udder
6. Set a ewe for showing
7. Run sheep through the race

Halter Training

8. Demonstrate the three central elements of good stockmanship
9. Demonstrate pressure and release training technique

Bud Box

10. Demonstrate Bud William's 5 principles (bud box, alleyway, gates)
11. Demonstrate body position and flight zone to load cattle
12. Demonstrate body position in the bud box
13. Demonstrate crossing the point of balance
14. Demonstrate catching and squeezing animals in the hydraulic silencer chute

Sorting Cattle

15. Demonstrate Bud William's 5 principles
16. Demonstrate working cattle effectively in their flight zone
17. Demonstrate working the point of balance

Stampede Steel

18. Assess and define the advantages and disadvantages of the handling facility
19. Demonstrate low stress handling methods through the beef facility (crowd tub, alleyway, gates, squeeze)
20. Demonstrate catching an animal in the hydraulic squeeze chute
21. Describe how the Temple Grandin principles are used in this system

Horses 101

22. Demonstrate how to approach a horse effectively and safely
23. Demonstrate how to correctly halter a horse
24. Demonstrate how to safely and effectively pick up all 4 feet of the horse.
25. Demonstrate how to lead a horse safely
26. Demonstrate how to tie a horse using a slip knot and a bow line knot