

Department:

Agriculture

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the technology required for modern sheep production. The course will focus on genetics, reproduction, health, nutrition, management concepts, marketing, budgets, and the proper care and handling of wool.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the 20 common breeds of sheep found in the United States.
2. Develop and explain a spring or fall lambing breeding program for the local region.
3. Create sheep rations for the ewe covering her needs for maintenance, gestation, and lactation using ration formulation templates.
4. Assemble creep, early finishing, and late finishing lamb rations.
5. List and describe the 15 most common sheep diseases.
6. Develop and explain a system to maximize the marketing of wool and lambs.
7. Develop and organize a flock budget using a computer software.
8. Age a sheep and condition score a ewe.
9. Trim feet.
10. Palpate udders for mastitis.
11. Pregnancy evaluate ewes.
12. Care for the ewe at lambing.
13. Shear a sheep using the NZ style and remove and prepare the wool clip for marketing.

Course Content:

- A. Introduction
- B. Breeds of Sheep and History of the Ovine
- C. Breeding and Genetic Applications for Commercial and Farm Flocks
 1. Flock improvement
 2. Productive traits
 3. Cross breeding and selection systems
 4. Reproductive physiology
 5. Hormone applications for out of season breeding and accelerated lambing systems
 6. Pregnancy testing
- D. Sheep Nutrition
 1. Nutrient requirements of sheep
 2. Essential vitamins and minerals for sheep
 3. Formulating ewe and market lamb rations

4. Feed additives for sheep
5. Forage utilization for sheep
6. Creep feeding lambs and artificial rearing of lambs
7. Nutritional effects on wool production
- E. Flock Health
 1. Keeping sheep healthy
 2. Common diseases of sheep
- F. Management and Marketing
 1. Management systems
 2. Fall and spring lamb production
 3. Confinement systems and their applications for sheep
 4. Budgets
 5. Commercial, purebred, and farm flock production system comparisons
 6. Marketing decisions
 7. Lamb prices and their comparison with other red meats
 8. Lamb products and their processing
- G. Wool Care and Harvesting
 1. Shearing sheep
 2. Shearing equipment and sharpening combs and cutters
 3. Handling of wool and preparing it for marketing
 4. Grading wool
 5. Wool marketing methods

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of a pre-test, unit tests, assignments, final exam, and a post-test.

Instructional Materials:

The Sheepman's Production Handbook, Scott, 4th Ed., Sheep Industry Development Program Recommendations for a Sheep Management Program, North Central Extension Pub. 240

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link:
<https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.