



Do you have
an interest in
feeding the world?

Program Description

This certificate program is designed to allow students the opportunity to specialize in the area of beef cattle management with a one year intensified program. It provides students greater knowledge and experience in the management of both cow/calf operations and feedlot segments. Students interested in gaining additional information for the family farm or seeking employment in the industry will benefit from this short program. The Beef Cattle Management Program gives students the opportunity to take courses from faculty and staff in the Department of Animal Science and work hands-on with one of the most notable purebred herds in the U.S. and the feedlot at MSU's Beef Cattle Research Center.

Academics

In addition to the clerkship, students are required to complete courses in reproduction, feeds and feeding, live animal and carcass evaluation, farm business management, beef cattle management and principles of animal environments. Students may choose from a number of different elective areas that include courses in agricultural economics, crop and soil science, agricultural engineering and animal science. Additionally, students are introduced to basic concepts regarding swine, sheep and other areas of animal science in courses that bring together students from other programs.

Facilities

The MSU Purebred Beef Cow - Calf Teaching and Research Center and the MSU Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Center provide students the opportunity to work hands-on in breeding, feeding, management, and merchandising of quality beef cattle. The Purebred Beef Cattle Center operates on 340 acres with two purebred herds of Angus and Polled Hereford cows and calves. The Beef Cattle Research Center conducts basic and applied beef cattle research that benefit producers and, ultimately, consumers. The Beef Cattle Research Center has a capacity of nearly 800 head.

Student Clubs & Organizations

MSU offers over 600 registered student organizations for involvement outside the classroom. Students in the Beef Cattle Management program may be interested in the Block and Bridle Club, Rodeo Club, or the Livestock Judging Team. Additionally, students have the opportunity to become involved in some of Michigan's most important events for beef cattle: the Michigan Beef Expo and the Michigan Cattlemen's Bull Test.



Clerkships

A hands-on clerkship at the MSU Purebred Beef Cattle Center and the MSU Beef Cattle Research Center is central to this program. Students are required to become involved in the day-to-day management of these two working units. Students from a rich or limited beef cattle background will benefit from the experience of learning how cow/calf operations and feedlots operate with knowledgeable managers of these two facilities.

Career Opportunities

Much of Michigan's beef cattle industry is centered in small family-oriented operations. Students may choose to either return to the family farm or make a small beef cattle operation a second income. However, for the student interested in making beef cattle a primary income, we have, within the department, placement and internship assistance.

Internships

A professional internship is required to complete the certificate program. The internship places students in a professional learning environment that challenges them to apply knowledge with hands-on mastery of production skills along with development of interpersonal and professional skills. Students will earn credits toward the certificate during this supervised on-the-job training. Internships are individualized and are as diverse as our students. They are encouraged to seek new or expanded work opportunities outside of Michigan for a more enriching experience. Internships may include, but are not limited to, work at cow/calf units, feedlots, guest ranches, and research organizations. For many students, this will come at the end of the second semester.

Admissions Requirements

The Beef Cattle Management Program is for students who have a desire to work in a variety of career fields within the agricultural industry.

To be admitted into the program, students must have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least a 2.0 GPA or higher. ACT or SAT scores are used as needed in the admission process.

This is an excellent program for recent high school graduates, workers seeking to retrain or retool, and those seeking a career change or to explore new options.

For More Information

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Beef Cattle Management Certificate Program



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