UMASS Poultry Management Class
ANMLSCI 297W
2014 Spring Semester Syllabus
Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

TAs
- Collin McGladrigan: cmcgladr@umass.edu
- Sasha Santiago: slsantia@umass.edu
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Advisors
- Helene Cousin: hcousin@vasci.umass.edu
- John Balise: jbalise@vasci.umass.edu
- Livestock Barn Manager: newth@vasci.umass.edu

**NOTE: if there is any issue or problem with the birds while you’re at the barn DO NOT HESITATE to call or text us!! We would rather hear about it now than have it become a bigger problem in the future!**

Books and materials:
There is no textbook required BUT you need to wear Boots and Coveralls anytime you go to the farm and are dealing with the chickens! This will be strictly enforced.
There are a few coveralls that can be borrowed at the barn but be aware that there is quite a few students working there and there might not be coveralls for you to borrow. We strongly suggest you get your own. Alice has short sleeved coverall with the department logo for sale. The proceeds will go toward the farm account. For the boots, you’re on your own but we suggest midcalf plastic boots that are easy to hose down.
Lesson Plan

Jan 21:
• Meet in ISB 427 L at 5:30pm
• Intro to class, go over syllabus

Jan 28
• Meet at Hadley Farm from now on (don’t forget your boots and coveralls)
• Tour farm and go over farm rules
• Brooding and chick care (TA lecture)

Jan 29
  **Chicks arrive!**

Feb 4
• TA lecture: Brooding and chick care

Feb 11
• Chick incubation and development (Helene)

Feb 18: Monday schedule NO CLASS

Feb 25
• Anatomy lecture and dissection (Helene and Sasha)

March 4
• Poultry Showing (Aliza)

March 11
• TA lecture: Case studies in poultry diseases (Kaylee)

March 18: Spring break NO CLASS

March 25
• TA lecture: Pastured Poultry Research @ UMass (Lila)

April 1
• TA lecture: (Collin)

April 5th
• Bay State Livestock Classic

April 8
• Guest lecture: TBA

April 15
• Guest lecturer: TBA

April 19th
  **Field trip to Pete and Gerry’s, NH**
  [http://peteandgerrys.com](http://peteandgerrys.com)

April 22
• Debate assignment

April 29
• Lab Practical- show (if not at Livestock Classic)
NOTE: Schedule is subject to change depending on guest speakers, field trips, cancelations, and other events beyond our control that always occur when raising animals.

Assignments + Grading

Grading

Grading will be based on a point system, with points designated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance to Meetings</td>
<td>80 pts (around 7/meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Checks</td>
<td>80 pts (around 9/week)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Practical: Chicken Show</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committees</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Chores</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 pts</strong></td>
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The cut-offs for the grades for this class are listed below. This is a two credit class. Since most of the points come from simple participation in meetings and weekly checks, the cut-off to pass the class is higher than for most classes.

93-100 % A
90-92% A-
87-89% B+
83-86% B
80-82% B-
77-79% C+
73-76% C
70-72% C-
0-69% F

Weekly Checks

Students are required to be responsible for at least one weekly check on the birds. This includes going to barn with a partner, feeding + watering the birds, weighing feed, counting the birds, contacting a TA with any concerns, and signing the log-book.

Lab Practical Final

The final will be showing a bird of your choice on April 29 or during the Bay State Livestock classic on Saturday, April 5th.

When showing a bird, students must show the judge that they have the skills of bird handling and the knowledge of how they were raised. Skills for showing birds will be taught in class.
**Debate**

We will be having a facilitated series of debates over a few hot topics in poultry management. Each group will be assigned a topic and have to do research on one position of the debate. Graphs and statistics will be required to back up claims. Students will submit a works cited and notes page on the day of the debate.

**Homework**

Each week students will be required to answer a few short answer questions about that week’s lesson or guest lecture. The purpose of these assignments is to test the students’ knowledge and understanding of the material covered each week and to allow them to present their own knowledge and opinions as well. These assignments are short and should take no more than ½ hour.

**Committees**

Each student will choose one committee to be part of throughout the semester based on their personal interests. Committees will meet at the end of each class and will all be run by a TA. The committees and their goals are as follows:

- **Layer Hen Task Force:** This committee will focus on the task of bringing layer hens to UMass. This includes finding money, making plans, designing housing and management, and finding support.
- **Business and Marketing committee:** This group will be in charge of marketing our group and product, pre-selling our 50 chickens by the end of the semester, and keeping track of our finances. They may sell at local farmers’ markets.
- **Health Manual Creators:** This committee is for students interested specifically in poultry health (perhaps pre-vet students). Their job is to monitor flock health, determine course of action in the case of disease or injury, and create a simple manual by the end of semester on common poultry diseases for future UMass Poultry Students.

**Chicken Chores**

There are many times throughout the semester that we will need the members of the class to help out with different tasks such as tabling at events such as the Bay State Livestock Classic and Earth Day. In addition there are times outside of class that it is vital for everyone to help out at the farm such as putting birds out to pasture, building and adjusting housing, bringing birds to slaughter, and cleaning up at the end of the semester. Each student in the class is required to complete THREE HOURS of “chicken chores”. Opportunities to do so will be advertised ahead of time.

**Field Trip**

This semester we will have opportunities for field trips. A visit to Pete and Gerry’s Egg Farm in NH (where UMass gets its cage free eggs) has been schedule on April the 19th. A bus has been reserved so the trip is mandatory! We’re leaving at 7am and will be back at 5pm or so. This trip is mandatory! In the past, other field trips have been organized to Diemand Farm in Wendell MA, Mockingbird Farm in Easthampton MA, and the New England Small Farms Institute.
Auditing

Students that are auditing the class are required to attend weekly meetings, but do not need to do anything else. However, further involvement such as taking on a weekly check is encouraged.