UMass Poultry Management II
Spring 2015 Syllabus
Tuesdays 4pm – 6pm

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Sasha Santiago
Executive/Research TA
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(If an emergency call 2X)

Aliza Ahlen
Show & Handling TA
Cell Phone:
Email: aahlen@umass.edu

Sarah Rollins
Tabling/Financial TA
Cell Phone:
Email:

If there are any problems with the birds while you're at the barn DO NOT HESITATE to call or text us!!

Contacting Us:
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, we will reply within 12-24 hours. But you need to contact the correct TA for the type of question you have. For example, if you have a question about the show you need to contact the Show & Handling TA. If you have a question about grading contact the Class Record Keeping TA. We have provided a description of each TA role to help you figure out which TA you should contact. If you contact the incorrect TA we will not answer your question. If you try to contact a TA and they do not respond within 24 hours try contacting the TA again and/or contact the executive TA. If you read through the descriptions and still don’t know who to contact, you may contact the executive TA and they will tell you who to talk to.

DO NOT try to go around to another TA just because you didn’t get the answer you wanted from the first TA you talked to. We will figure out what you are doing.

The TAs make all decisions as a group. This means when you ask one of us a question we present the question to all the TAs (and instructors) and we all approve the answer. We all created the syllabus and rules together, so we will all give the same answer.
We will not answer any questions whose answers are on the syllabus. We will reply with look at the syllabus.

If you have a complaint about a TA feel free to contact JB or Dr. Cousin.

**TA Role Descriptions:**

**Executive TA**
The role of executive TA is not the same as the role of President that the other management classes have. The executive TA does not control the class, nor do they have any authority over the other TAs. The executive TA is responsible for the following duties*:

- Scheduling meetings
- Scheduling field trips
- Scheduling guest speakers
- Reserving classrooms
- Updating Vasci website
- Updating advisors daily/weekly
- Must be easily reached by students, instructors, or other TAs.

*The executive TA performs these duties with the help of the advisors and other TAs.

**Research TAs**
The research TAs are the ones currently doing research on the chickens. Currently they are observing the effects of different housing systems (Indoor vs Outdoor pasture) on the stress levels and behavior in slow growing broiler chickens in New England. They keep track of weight, feed intake, behavior, and stress level (through blood and feather analysis).

**Health Care TA**
The health care TA is responsible for

**Tabling TA**
The tabling TA is responsible for

**Financial TA**
The financial TA is responsible for

**Class Record Keeping TA**
The class record keeping TA is responsible for....Do not ask the Class TA when grades will be up. They are grading as quickly as they can.

**Show & Handling TA**
The show & handling Ta is responsible for

**All TAs**
All of the TAs are ultimately responsible for the safety and well-being of the chickens. If you are at a chick check and something happens or if you do not know what to do in a certain situation you can contact any of the TAs. But, if it is health related the Health Care TA should be contacted first.
How to send an Email:
If sending an email to one of the TAs or instructors they need to be properly written. Emails MUST follow this format:

Subject: Poultry Management

Body:
Hello, Hey, Hi, etc... TA/instructor name,

Whatever you have to say.

Thanks, Have a great day, sincerely, etc...
Your Name

Any emails that do not follow this format WILL NOT be replied to or acknowledged.

Course Description: The Poultry Management class was started in 2011 by a group of students interested in learning how to manage a small flock of broiler (meat) chickens. This is an experimental learning opportunity within the Veterinary & Animal Sciences Department. Students perform management activities that are required for the care of a group of poultry. Day old chicks arrive soon after the semester begins and students will be responsible for all daily care including: feeding, cleaning, weekly weights, bird identification, moving the coops on pasture, record keeping, and marketing and distributing the processed birds. The class is directly supervised by two professors from the Veterinary & Animal Science Department with involvement from the staff veterinarian. The fall semester focuses on poultry management techniques and knowledge. The spring semester focuses on poultry anatomy & physiology.

Course Goals:
1. Educate students about poultry and the various management practices of the poultry industry. By the end of this course students should be able to knowledgeably raise a flock of chickens in their own backyard and have a full understanding of all aspects of the poultry industry.

2. To provide the community with a healthy, natural, alternative option when purchasing meat birds.

Course Credits:
This is a 2 credit course. According to University policy each credit requires 3 hours of work per week. This means that this course must provide students with 6 hours of work per week. The 6 hour breakdown for this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chick Check</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Set</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Required Materials:
*Boots and coveralls are required anytime you are at the Hadley Farm.* This will be strictly enforced. Any students not wearing the required clothing will lose credit for that class period and will not be allowed to work with the poultry. Boots need to be waterproof and capable of being bleached. Rain boots work well, as do muck boots (If you are an animal science major the muck boots are a good investment as you will be visiting the Hadley Farm a lot). We recommend mid-calf boots because you might often have to walk through deep puddles when it rains. Coveralls can be purchased from Alice Newth (these will have the Vasci logo on them). They can also be purchased from farmer supply stores and online stores like dickies.com. Students have until the chicks arrive on Jan. 29th to acquire coveralls and boots

Students are also responsible for acquiring show attire. The requirements for men and women are the same. Students are required to have:

**Dress Shirts** – Must be plain white. NO stains, stripes, large logos, dots, words etc...

**Or Poultry Shirts** – Must be clean and presentable. NO stains, rips, or wrinkles.

**Blue Jeans** – Must be clean and presentable. NO dirt, stains, rips, holes, etc...

**Boots** – All students will be wearing their regular barn boots. Must be cleaned right before show. Students have until the show on April 4th to acquire show attire

**DO NOT BRING ANY CLOTHING OR FOOTWEAR THAT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO OTHER POULTRY!**

Disability Accommodations:
If you are registered with disability services and need special accommodations please feel free to come talk to any of the TAs or the instructors. If you will be taking your exams with disability services it is your responsibility to arrange your test time and date with them.

If you are not registered with disability services but have a disability that requires special accommodations then you must register. For more information on how to register visit the website [http://www.umass.edu/disability/current.html](http://www.umass.edu/disability/current.html) or call 413-545-0892.

Grading:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moodle Quizzes</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chick Checks</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Set/Final Project</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Practice</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabling/Chicken Chores</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Points will be awarded based on participation. Simply showing up will not guarantee full points.*
Grade Cut Offs:
This is a two credit class, which means that a letter grade will appear on your transcript. The cut-offs for grades are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Minimum Points Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td>&lt;630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will not be curved in this course. The minimum points required to receive a particular grade will not change. We will not round grades. For example, if you get an 845.9 you will receive an A-.

Point Deductions:
Each time a student drops a bird they will lose 2 points. The first time a student drops a bird there will be no deduction but there will be a warning. After this, 2 points will be deducted each time a bird is dropped.

Auditing Students:
Students that are auditing are required to attend each class and to show a chicken, but they are not responsible for the other class requirements. However, further involvement such as taking on a weekly check is encouraged.

Attendance:
Students are required to attend each class session and participate in all activities occurring during the class. Students are also required to wear appropriate clothing (boots and coveralls) to each class. They must be respectful and attentive during lectures; this means no using cell phones during this time. Those who are disruptive, talking, or on their cell phones will lose points. Students are encouraged to take notes during lecture to use as study material for the exams. Attendance is worth 10 points per class for a total of 130 points.

Attendance will be taken at exactly 4pm. Half credit will be given until 4:10pm, however the student is responsible for ensuring they are marked as present if they come in late. After this a zero will be given.

Since we are working with live animals there is a chance that class will run longer than the normal time due to unforeseen circumstances.

Absence Policy
Since this class only meets once a week there will be no unexcused absences allowed. Excused absences will only be granted in the following circumstances per University policy:

- **Religious Observances** – Must tell us in advance
- **University Sponsored Athletic Events** – Need note from Athletic Department
- **University Sponsored Field Trips/Competitions** – Need note from sponsoring department
- **Health Reasons** – Need note from medical provider
**Personal Reasons** – Family illness, death, jury duty, court date, accidents, etc...

Please notify us as soon as possible if missing a class. If an extended absence is needed the student or student’s parents/guardians need to contact the Dean of Students Office. For more information on the University’s Absence policy visit their website at [http://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/policies-and-practices/class-absence-policy](http://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/policies-and-practices/class-absence-policy).

**Getting to Class:**
Students will carpool to and from class. Rides will be assigned the first day of class. If a student’s ride is sick they must contact a TA for a ride no later than 30 minutes before class. Those providing the rides must inform the students they give rides to as soon as possible if they cannot make it.

**In Class Exams:**
There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. Students will have 1 hour at the end of the class period to take the exam. Students who arrive late will not be given extra time. The TAs will be taking notes during each lecture and will create exam questions based on this information. There will be no lecture the day of exams.

ALL information presented during a lecture is fair game for the exam; this means we will ask questions on what the presenter says as well as what is on the Powerpoint. It is important to listen to everything the speaker says, DO NOT RELY ONLY ON THE POWERPOINT.

**Test Format/Dates:**
This test will be composed of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions.

Test 1 – March 10th
Test 2 – April 28th

**Missing an Exam:**
Make up exams will only be offered in cases of an excused absence, see absence policy. If an exam for another class if scheduled during our class time, the instructor of that course must provide the student with a makeup exam per University policy. For more information please visit [http://www.umass.edu/senate/fs_docs/SEN_DOC_NO_07-046_EXAMS.pdf](http://www.umass.edu/senate/fs_docs/SEN_DOC_NO_07-046_EXAMS.pdf).

**Moodle Quizzes:**
There will be 3 Moodle quizzes for a total of 50 points. These will test important information you need to know about the syllabus and about chick checks. These quizzes will have unlimited time and are open book.
1. Syllabus (10 points). This quiz will ensure students read the syllabus. This quiz may be fairly long.
2. Chick Check Part One (20 points). This quiz tests the information students need to know to do their chick checks while the birds are in the brooder.
3. Chick Check Part Two (20 points). This quiz tests the information students need to know to do their chick checks when the birds are out of the brooder and split into their research groups.
**Chick Checks:**
Students are responsible for one check a week worth 10 points each (a total of 100 points). Chick checks will be done in pairs. Morning checks are to be completed between 7-10am and afternoon checks are to be completed any time after 3 but before it gets dark. Checks include feeding & watering the birds, rotating pasture, weighing feed, counting the birds, observing for illness/injury, recording behavior, contacting a TA with any concerns, signing the log-book, etc.

Exact directions will be given during class and will be emailed to all students. Checks should take approximately 30 minutes - 1 hour.

If students do not give water to the birds or forget to take the cap off the water they will be given a zero for the check.

**Problem Set/ Final Project:**
Students will be assigned groups of two or more to run a farm. This project is worth 100 points.

**Show:**
Each student will have the opportunity to train a chicken of their choice to compete in a showmanship competition. 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. The show is worth 100 points.

**Show Practice:**
Students are required to attend one show practice a week. Skills for showing birds will be taught in practice. Students will work under the supervision of the Showing & Handling TA and will need to work consistently (outside of class) with their chickens to achieve proper technique. Each practice is worth 100 for a total of 100 points.

**Field Trip:**
The field trip is MANDATORY and worth 90 points.

**Tabling/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 like the farmers market. 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, loading birds for 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. Tabling/Chicken Chores are worth 30 points.

**Apprenticing:**
As TAs graduate there will be a need for new TAs. New TAs will be selected from a group of apprentices by the current TAs and instructors. These new TAs will be assigned their roles for the first year. If one apprentices but is not selected to become a TA they may keep apprenticing*.

Apprentice requirements:
Must take both fall and spring semester for credit.
Must apprentice for at least 1 year.
Must attend two show practices a week; one as class requirement and one to shadow TA.
Must attend TA meetings.
Note: Being a poultry TA is extremely time consuming. When we have chickens it is a 24/7 job. TAs often will go check on the chickens late at night, early in the morning, and throughout the day. When we do not have chickens time is spent planning upcoming semesters, researching new information and ideas, etc...If one does not have enough time to be an apprentice they will most likely not have enough time to be a TA.

*Becoming an apprentice does not guarantee one becoming a TA.

**Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>First Class Syllabus Overview</td>
<td>Ice Breaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Brooder/Chick Care Lecture All TA’s</td>
<td>Set up Brooder Tour of Barn Explain Project Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Chicks Arrive!</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Chick Handling Choose Project Groups</td>
<td>Chick Handling Choose Project Groups Meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/17</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2/24</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Banding Chicks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>No Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/24</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>3/31</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/28</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Last Day of Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Schedule is subject to change depending on guest speakers, field trips, cancelations, and other events beyond our control that always occur when raising animals.