



A New Breed of Animal Studies at UF

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Caring for ewes, trimming hooves, studying different types of fencing and visiting an area farm to learn the process of making cattle feed are all part of an ordinary day for animal science majors at the University. The new major, introduced for the first time in fall 2007, gives students another option when it comes to pursuing a career in the animal industry.

Brad Bellner, a junior animal science and biology major from Whitehouse, Ohio, became an animal science major because “the classes have a practical use. The degree is actually something I’ll be able to use in my career. It’s very production-oriented.”

New classes designed specifically for the animal science major include, among others, Principles of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Meat Animal Evaluation, Advanced Animal Nutrition and Forage and Crop Production. All of the courses complement the pre-veterinary and equestrian curricula, both of which have strong foundations.

As an animal science major, students have two options: to pursue a business- and production-oriented curriculum or to pursue a science option. Both options offer hands-on learning experiences and a challenging course schedule. The business and production option

Animal Science Major

prepares students to enter the industry directly after graduation. The science option prepares students to attend graduate or professional school and engage in scientific research within the field.

Bellner, who chose the science option, hopes to continue his education in graduate school to study reproduction or nutrition of swine, a field in which he would like to establish a long-term career.

According to Farabee McCarthy, Ph.D., director of the Center for Equestrian and Pre-veterinary Studies and associate professor of equestrian studies, the structure was already in place for the new animal science major, building on the proven success of UF's pre-veterinary and equestrian majors. "The new major allows the University to make its students more marketable after graduation, and it gives students another option within the animal industry."

Ed Bonnette, Ph.D., assistant professor of animal science, joined the University last year to teach many of the new courses. He was a field nutritionist for 17 years and currently owns a farm on which he and his family raise animals in Allen County. All instructors in the program have at least 15 years of field experience.

The University is well known for its hand-on approach to teaching, and McCarthy said the new major will be no different. "We want to provide something unique," he said. "The instructional atmosphere on campus, the accessibility of the instructors and the hands-on teaching that takes place will enable students to be successful both in the classroom and throughout their careers."



In addition to classes on animal handling, animal breeding and genetics, students get hands-on experience with animals.



Students pursuing a bachelor's degree in animal science learn to operate heavy machinery, how to handle a variety of large and small animals and the many types of animal feed available, as well as the differences between them.