



# Grass-Fed Livestock Production AGAH-1371 (Hybrid)

Course Syllabus: Fall 2022

*“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”*

**Instructor:** Rene’ McCracken

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Office	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Hours	8am – 10am	8am – 9:20am	8am – 10am	8am – 9:20am	8am – 10am	

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** 3 credit hours - Two hours lecture and three hours of lab each week Small-scale, pasture-based production of animals for niche and specialty markets. Species and breed selection, facilities, housing, and nutritional requirements for livestock including cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, rabbits, and poultry. Students will learn how to identify appropriate species and breeds for specific farm needs and will demonstrate an understanding of small-scale sustainable livestock production utilizing grass as the primary feed source. (Fall)

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Students should be able to design a functioning grass based livestock system
- Students should be able to integrate the concepts of soil (soil texture, drainage, fertility, and chemistry), plant (anatomy, morphology, and physiology), and animal sciences (nutrition, physiology, and anatomy) to describe the conditions and processes required for successful establishment, management, and utilization of forage crops in sustainable and environmentally sound production systems.
- Students will be able to recognize 20 major species of forage.
- Students should recognize breeds of livestock that benefit from a grass based diet.

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Grades will be computed as follows:

(3) Exam - 60%

(1) Research Proposal - 20%

Class/Lab/blackboard Participation - 20%

**Required Instructional Materials:** No textbook required. Study material will be provided by instructor in class and/or on Blackboard.

**Publisher:** N/A

**ISBN Number:** N/A

**Optional Instructional Materials:** None

**Minimum Technology Requirements:** None

**Required Computer Literacy Skills:** None

**Course Structure and Overview:**

- **Lectures and Discussions:**
  1. This course will be a combination of reading and reviewing information on blackboard and lecture/lab during class time. The lab portions of the course will be conducted as assigned on the eagle ranch in the areas consistent with course requirements.
- **Tests/Exams:**
  2. There will be 3 exams accounting for 60% of your overall grade. Exams will be multiple-choice, short answer, and essays developed from the lecture materials provided.
- **Project:**
  3. Students will be required to develop a proposal presentation during the semester which will account for 40% of the final grade. Students will be provided topics, instructions, and assigned presentation times by the instructor with various deadlines throughout the semester. Final projects will be due the last two weeks of the semester.

**Communications:** Turnaround time for email responses (i.e. within 24 hours), stipulating if you will allow student text messages (i.e. Remind app), etc. \*Reminder: NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college.

**Institutional/Course Policy:** Students are required to dress appropriately for lab; this includes closed toed shoes, safety glasses (when required), and appropriate dress for working outdoors. Students are required to participate in both classroom and lab activities. Participation is 20% of the final grade and attendance is required to participate. Students are expected to be on time and ready to begin when classes start. Students may only be excused from class if it is an NTCC policy excused absence. Students will be required to log on to blackboard and complete the assignments there for a portion of their participation grade.

**Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

**NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with

disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

### **Tentative Course Timeline (\*note\* instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term):**

Week 1: Open and review of syllabus discussion of class assignments

Meet and greet review of syllabus

Complete pre-test of your knowledge of grass fed systems

Week 2: Intro to topic and defining pasture based livestock production

USDA definition and labeling

Assignment 1: Review and report on a grass finished operation of your choice

Week 3-4: Starting from the ground up – site selection and soil basics

How to select and meet the needs of livestock with forages/land sources

Improving soil, creating year round systems

Assignment 2: Pasture Rotation Layout Design

Week 5-6: Plants, forages, and meeting nutritional needs with forages Intro to forage types for pastured based systems in east Texas possible hay sources for forage based systems (EXAM 1)

Week 7: Pastured Based Poultry Systems

Breeds designed for pastured based systems

Forages required for egg/meat production

Week 8: Pastured Based Pork Systems

Breeds required for pastured pork systems

Forages required for pork nutritional needs

Week 9: SPING BREAK

Week 10: Pastured Based Goat Systems

Breeds designed for pastured based systems for goats (meat/dairy)

Forages required for goat nutritional needs (EXAM 2)

Week 11: Pastured based Beef Systems

Breeds designed for pastured based system for cattle (meat/dairy)

Forages required for cattle nutritional needs

Week 12: Fencing and housing options

Week 13: Marketing Options for pastured based products

Week 14: Projects due

Week 15: Projects due

Week 16: FINAL EXAM – not comprehensive