

2007 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work

Extension Livestock Management Program

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

- 301 10% Reproductive Performance of Animals
- 303 10% Genetic Improvement of Animals
- 306 15% Environmental Stress in Animals
- 307 25% Animal Management Systems
- 806 40% Youth Development

V(C). Planned Program (Situation and Scope)

1. Situation and priorities

Arkansas ranks seventeenth in the nation in beef production with 30,000 to 31,000 producers and somewhat over 980,000 beef cows. This equals an average herd size of just over 30 cows. Actually 80% of the herds in state have 30 cows or less. The vast majority of these herds are sideline operations to off-farm jobs, other farming operations, or they are a retirement vocation. In most of these herds the level of reproduction and the level of production is low or below average because they are not being managed as an income producing enterprise or business. In the last several years the interest in meat goats has grown rapidly. The meat goat business is very similar to beef cattle in that these are sideline operations. Many livestock producers, as well as limited resource producers and small farmers have recently expressed a need for information and help on breed selection, herd health, improved herd performance, marketing information, herd fertility, and general herd management. Improvements in these specific management areas as well improvements in general herd or flock management will improve the profitability and competitiveness of these livestock operations by helping the producer market more animals, market heavier animals, and market animals with more market value. Youth livestock projects are quite popular (market hogs, market lambs and market goats). They are shown at county, district and at the state fair. These are usually some of the largest shows on the fairgrounds and are an excellent means of introducing livestock production to youth.

V(D). Planned Program (Assumptions and Goals)

1. Assumptions made for the Program

Livestock producers will improve total herd and flock management as a result of knowledge obtained through various educational activities. These management practices will increase the net farm income. Youth will gain some basic knowledge about animal agriculture as well as develop an interest in animal agriculture from their participation in animal projects and area and state livestock shows.

2. Ultimate goal(s) of this Program

The ultimate goal of this program for adult livestock producers is to have them achieve more profit from their herds and to be more competitive in the livestock industry. The ultimate goal for youth is to have them develop an appreciation for animal agriculture, develop a desirable work ethic, and develop a sense of responsibility through their participation in livestock projects and livestock shows.

V(F). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Activity for the Program

Primary activities with producers will be individual farm visits, educational meetings, field days, farm demonstrations, office conferences, and the preparation and/or distribution of educational materials. Primary youth activities are the Southeast District Fair, swine shows at the State Fair, the Southeast District 4-H Horse Show, and the Arkansas 4-H Veterinary Science Project activities.