PURPOSE

A. To ensure the highest quality of animal health and human safety at the Rodeo Unit of the Texas Tech Equestrian Center (TTEC) in Wolfforth, TX.
B. To ensure personnel handling livestock perform their duties in a manner that complies with all current laws regulations and guidelines.
C. To ensure that all livestock are housed and maintained in a manner consistent with the AWA, Ag Guide and TTU IACUC approved policies and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITY

A. The TTU Animal Care Services (ACS) veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by program staff. In the case of animal welfare negligence the University Veterinarian has the authority to intervene immediately.
B. Facility Managers/Rodeo Coach ensures implementation of all procedures.
C. Students are responsible for the daily care of their personally owned animals.

PROCEDURE

All staff are required to complete generic IACUC training and to participate in the Occupational Health & Safety Program. Students are required to leave contact information in case of emergency.

Training

All students and staff will be trained via Texas Tech Equestrian Center/ Animal and Food Sciences in:
A. Animal Husbandry
B. Handling and Restraint
C. First aid
D. Methods for minimizing pain, distress, and infection will be discussed during general care training.
E. Proper use of equipment/ facilities.

Occupational Health

To promote the safety of the staff
A. Animal Caretakers should have a tetanus vaccine every ten years.
B. First Aid kits are available in designated areas on site.

FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Housing
All pens and pastures will keep weeds and overgrowth to a minimum, especially around barn areas and close to feed storage areas.

**Horses**

A. Stalls with either sand or wood bedding
   1. Stall size is in accordance with the Ag Guide. Stalls will have adequate ventilation and safe footing. Horses housed in stalls will be turned out or exercised frequently (permitting health and weather) and stalls will be cleaned at least every other day.

B. Noise: Loud or sudden noises will be kept to a minimum, however, white noise like a radio may be kept in barns to mask or accustom the horses to startling sounds.

C. Dry lot pens
   1. Pens and pastures will be free of harmful objects, have access to shade, water and will be cleaned with accordance to the Ag Guide.

**Cattle**

A. Dry lot pen areas will provide access to clean water, feed, and shelter/shade and will meet the size requirements for cattle according to the Ag Guide.

B. Pasture areas, if available, will be provided for cattle enrichment. Areas for grazing will provide access to clean water and shade in accordance with the Ag Guide, and will be fenced (permanent or temporary) in a manner to keep livestock secured on the TTEC property.

**Goats**

A. Goat pens will provide access to clean water, feed, and shelter/shade and will meet the size requirements for goats according to the Ag Guide.

B. Goat pen fencing will ensure that goats are secured from escape, and that it will minimize access for predators.

**Pest Control**

A. The offices, feed and tack rooms will be fogged or treated regularly for flies and mice as needed.

B. Fly masks will be kept on horses that show sensitivity to flies or the sun during summer months.

C. Animals will be treated for flies and other external parasites using spray, pour-on, wipe or spot-on application products approved for appropriate species use.

D. The Department of Vector Control will be consulted and will spray regularly during the mosquito season.

E. Feed stuffs will be kept in closed containers to prevent contamination from vermin.

F. Efforts will be made to eliminate standing water on the grounds to minimize mosquito breeding.
FEEDING & WATERING

A. Feeding troughs, pails and hay rings will be kept clean and free of sharp edges.
B. Livestock will either have access to safe pasture for grazing, free choice hay, or fed twice per day.
C. Water containers will be kept clean, full of fresh water and free of sharp edges.
D. Feed storage containers will be vermin proof (i.e. plastic trash containers with a lid).
E. Hay will be stored on pallets, or off the ground in some form.

HERD HEALTH

Records

Records will be kept on all animals in a file in the Rodeo Coach’s office.

This will include for TTU owned animals:
A. Identification/number of all animals
B. Registration papers if available
C. Negative EIA (Coggins) test

This will include for non-TTU owned animals:
A. Owner information including emergency contact numbers
B. Identification of all animals.
C. Registration papers if available
D. Negative EIA (Coggins) test
E. Information provided by the owner for medical treatment, first aid, routine treatments (vaccinations, de-worming, hoof-care) dental records, and other health-related information.
F. Identification and emergency contact will be posted on the wall across from each horse’s stall or pen, and in the Rodeo Coach office.

General Health

Animals will be observed during the day periodically but at a minimum of one time per day.
A. All horses will maintain a current negative Coggins test.
B. It will be recommended to owners that De-wormers be administered quarterly via paste, oral drench, or a granule top dressing. In addition, fecal egg counts may be performed on horses to determine quantity and type of parasite for appropriate anthelmintic selection.
C. Hoof care will be also be monitored by staff, owner, and professional farrier.
D. It will be suggested to maintain a target body condition score of 5.
   1. If it is determined by an Animal Care Services (ACS) veterinarian that a horse is unable to maintain a body condition score of 3.5, aggressive therapeutic action will be taken to ensure the animal is receiving the best care.

Vaccinations & Deworming

Cattle
A. Ideally, animals will be procured from a supplier that has a preconditioning program that includes 2 sets of vaccines, started on feed and dewormed

B. Will be vaccinated with a modified live virus (MLV) or killed virus vaccine that includes:
   1. IBR, BVD type I & II, BRSV & PI3
   2. 7 or 8-way clostridial vaccine
   3. Pasturella

C. Oral or injectable deworming product

Horses
A. Will be annually vaccinated with a combination product that includes:
   1. Equine Influenza (Flu), equine herpes virus (Rhino), eastern, western and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), (WEE), (VEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) and tetanus

B. Oral deworming products to be determined with the input of Animal Care Services veterinarians

Goats
A. Will be vaccinated with Clostridium perfringens type C + D and tetanus (CDT)
B. Will receive oral drench of amprolium (i.e. Corid) product on arrival
C. Oral deworming products to be determined with the input of Animal Care Services veterinarians
D. Periodic fecal egg counts to determine quantity and type of parasite

Illness or Injury
If an animal is sick or injured, it will be evaluated, deemed as minor or major.

A. The owner will be notified immediately, unless a prescribed, pre-arrangement has been provided.
   1. If the owner is unable to be reached immediately, trained staff or student workers will treat the injury and record the treatment.
   2. If it is a major injury or illness immediate assistance will be provided to the animal and owner will be notified.
   3. If the owner cannot be reached, veterinary care wishes will be followed as per stated on boarding/lease contract.
   4. Once veterinary care has been provided, the owner will provide a copy of the medical treatment for the horse’s records, which shall detail the diagnosis, treatment and expected outcome.

B. Temperature sensitive medications will be kept in a refrigerator designated for animal medications located in the supply room.
C. All outdated or expired materials will be disposed of properly.
D. Sharps containers will be located in the rodeo coach’s office and will be disposed of properly when full.

Monitoring System
Trained staff will observe all TTU stock and student owned horses daily.
A. Physical injuries will be noted and owners notified.
B. Negligence will be recorded and the owner will be notified.
   1. lack of feed or water,
   2. refusal to address injuries or sickness or
   3. unacceptable living conditions
   4. The owner MUST respond IN WRITING as to how the problem is being addressed.

C. If a pattern occurs, (three notices), the owner will be asked to leave.
   1. All records, notices and correspondence will be kept in a file with the Rodeo Coach.
   2. If the negligence is an animal welfare issue the IACUC committee or an Animal Care Services Veterinarian will be notified, and has the authority to intervene immediately.