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Agriculture students receive experience at College Farm

by DAVE CHESTNUT
 Leader reporter

Bawling cattle hardly comprise the routine atmosphere in a typical classroom at Fort Hays State, but for animal science students on-the-farm-training is a part of their education.

Raising beef cattle is Kansas' No. 1 industry and the College Farm is becoming an increasingly important training area for agricultural students at FHS.

According to Dr. Duane Sharp, superintendent of the Farm and animal science instructor, the main reason FHS operates its own farm is that a majority of agricultural students go back to the farm upon graduation and are interested in obtaining practical knowledge based on the scientific information accumulated from research activities of the college. Students can use this knowledge to increase their farm's productivity.

Located southwest of the campus, the College Farm consists of approximately 3,200 acres. A total of 1,400 acres is used for production of sorghums, legumes, and grain for livestock feed. Another 1,800 acres is used for grazing.

Top dairy herd

The college dairy, consisting of 80 head of Holstein cows and re-

placement heifers, is the first laboratory for student research at FHS. It is one of the top producing herds in Kansas, with an average production for 1970 of 17,500 pounds of milk per cow, according to Dr. Sharp. The herd is an active member of Kansas Dairy Herd Improvement Assn. All the cows are bred by artificial insemination.

Equipped with a modern milk processing plant, the dairy furnishes most of the milk and dairy products for the Memorial Union and the residence halls. Because of its modern facilities and management, the dairy serves as a useful laboratory for training students in dairy cattle management practices.

Practical experience

This semester the 40 students enrolled in Elements of Dairying will spend one week working directly with Al Graf, the dairy herdsman. They will study dairy cattle feeding, proper milking and sanitation practices, herd health care and dairy cattle breeding management practices.

The college beef herd, which provides students with a second research area, produces the calves used for instructing students in production testing, live animal and

carcass evaluation, feeding and marketing beef cattle, fitting and showing, vaccination, implanting, and other techniques. They also serve as a source of information for studying record keeping and evaluation of livestock enterprises. The herd also allows for the instruction of artificial breeding and pregnancy testing.

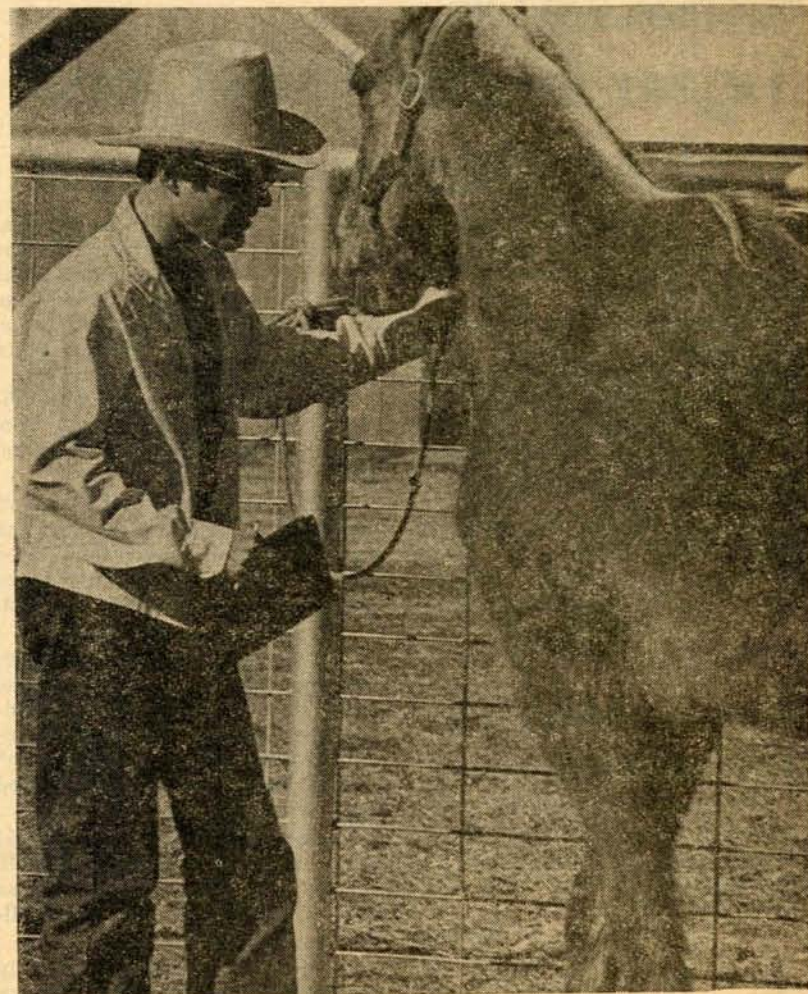
Raise breeding sows

A third area of research is provided by the swine herd of 60 crossbred brood sows. The pigs are used for instruction in breeding and farrowing management, live animal and carcass evaluation, feeding demonstrations, and fitting and showing.

The College Farm also serves as a fourth practical laboratory for students studying pasture and range management, irrigation, soil fertilization and conservation practices, wildlife ecology, and crop production.

Not only is the Farm vital in the training of agricultural students, but also in providing a source of income to many students.

According to Dr. W. W. Harris, associate professor of agriculture, FHS's agricultural program is "small enough to keep students foremost in our minds."



DAVID YUST, Sylvia senior, looks over a thoroughbred for livestock judging during a class project.

—photo by Rod McDaniels