EDTL 7100

Curriculum Design Map Project

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Statement of Purpose

 Within my Agriculture Education curriculum, I teach a Dairy Enterprise unit to my sophomores each year. The purpose of this unit is to expose the students to the dairy industry, but specifically to gain knowledge in numerous areas of instruction. Those areas are: ruminant digestive systems, nutrient requirements of animals, ration balancing, and feed ingredients (Spike, 1984).

 The appropriateness and purpose of this unit is for the students to gain an understanding of the importance of animal husbandry and care from young calves to adult cattle. I strive to teach students to learn through functional, pragmatic approaches. The student will learn to process through critical thinking and analysis, the ability to learn information of the dairy enterprise which will in turn prepare them to raise and care for their own agricultural production animals.

 It is very important, in all that I teach, to convey to the students the relevance of the material being learned. Very seldom have I ever been questioned by a student of the importance of learning a curriculum unit in my program. Everything I teach has relevance for skill or trade development. The ability for students to develop skills in the aforementioned areas is imperative to the vision and future of animal production. From young calves to adult cattle, the students will learn the necessary abilities and information to be successful (Porterfield, 1984).

 It is also important for the students to apply technology-based applications to the curriculum at hand. The students will learn the computer-based technology behind the ration-balancing which leads to more profitability, improved herd health, herd production improvement, and outstanding herd reproduction standards (Ashworth & Perry).

References

Spike, P & Porterfield, R. (1984) Feeding dairy calves from birth to six months. *Ohio Cooperative Extension Service Dairy Guide, The Ohio State University, 401,* 1-4

Ashworth, C. & Perry L. Feed to breed on schedule. *Dairy Herd Health Guide,* Vol. 1, 19-21

Barrick, K. & Harmon, H. (1988) *Animal Production and Management*. (1st Ed.) . (1988). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill