

IACUC Guideline 010: IACUC Requirements for Agricultural Coursework

Purpose: This guideline outlines the institutional and regulatory requirements that govern the use of agricultural animals in teaching settings, specifically within the context of agricultural coursework at University of Wyoming.

Background

All teaching activities involving live animals must be conducted under an approved IACUC protocol. These teaching protocols are considered full IACUC-regulated activities and are therefore subject to all applicable institutional policies and federal regulations governing animal care and use. To support implementation of agricultural teaching coursework, this document provides a summary of key requirements and common compliance topics. However, this guideline is intended as a supplementary reference only. The primary and enforceable requirements remain those described in the official IACUC policies and the approved protocol.

Requirements

Personnel, Training, and Protocol Oversight

Personnel involved in the use, handling, or care of animals in agricultural coursework - including Principal Investigators (PIs) and teaching assistants (TAs) - must be listed on and trained under an IACUC-approved protocol, as outlined in institutional policy. Required training typically includes:

- Completion of relevant CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) modules for animal users
- Clearance through the Animal Occupational Health and Safety Program (AOHSP)
- Formal inclusion in the applicable IACUC protocol

Individuals who are not listed on the protocol or who have not completed the required training are considered unauthorized. Their participation may be classified as noncompliance under both institutional policy and USDA Animal Welfare regulations.

Students participating in teaching activities covered by IACUC protocols are addressed under the institutional guideline,

“Volunteers, Students, and Workshop Participants Handling or Using Vertebrate Animals on IACUC Protocols.”

According to this policy, students do not need to be individually listed on the IACUC protocol, provided that their activities fall within the scope of the protocol, and they are appropriately trained and supervised.

Daily Animal Care Checks

Animals used in coursework must receive daily health and welfare checks throughout the entire duration of their involvement, regardless of whether they are housed in a designated teaching area (e.g., LREC

pens) or return to the general herd. Observations must be assessed and documented using the designated form: **Daily Checklist – Ag Site**.

General procedures - protocols

- Regarding animal use and selection, faculty must maintain records identifying which specific animals are used during each class session. If animals are temporarily separated from the herd for instruction, records must indicate which individuals were selected, how long they were separated, and when they returned to the herd. Even if animals are only briefly handled and immediately reintegrated, this use must still be noted for proper recordkeeping, animal identification, and cumulative use tracking.
- All procedures planned for use in the classroom must be fully described in an IACUC-approved protocol. This includes any ongoing or practical activities already integrated into current teaching or multiple-course use. Each use must align with the protocol's description and be approved in advance by the IACUC.
- Animal disposition must also be clearly outlined in the protocol. The protocol must state whether animals may be re-used in future classes, and if so, how that will be tracked. If animals are subject to sale, harvest for educational purposes, or slaughter, these outcomes must be explicitly described and must comply with USDA food safety and animal disposition regulations.

Veterinary Care and Unanticipated Injury or Death

The Attending Veterinarian (AV) and IACUC must be notified of any health concerns, injuries, or unanticipated deaths. Prompt treatment or euthanasia must be administered in accordance with the approved protocol or in coordination with the local veterinarian. Treatment should be initiated promptly, and ongoing communication with the AV must be maintained regarding the animal's condition. Evaluated for possible protocol amendments or corrective actions.

Food Storage requirements

Feed must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination and spoilage. Proper storage ensures the nutritional quality of the feed and the health of the animals.

Use Locations (pastures, buildings, other [including beyond LREC])

All locations where animals are housed or used - including pastures, buildings, and off-site areas - must be listed in the IACUC protocol. Any new locations require prior IACUC approval to ensure they meet welfare standards.

Inspections

- **Monthly Attending Veterinarian inspections**

Animals used in agricultural coursework are subject to monthly inspections by the AV or their designee. To support this process, instructors and facility personnel must clearly communicate the location of animals and ensure that daily health check forms are up to date and readily available for review during inspections.

- **Semiannual IACUC Inspections**

In accordance with institutional and federal requirements, semiannual inspections must be conducted by the IACUC. These inspections include all areas where animals are housed or procedures are performed, ensuring compliance with animal welfare standards and approved protocols.

Supplemental points:

Activities such as rodeo training, student clubs or organizations (e.g., Rodeo Club, 4-H, Livestock Judging, Extension), and public outreach events involving children or the general public are generally not under IACUC oversight unless the activity is directly associated with an IACUC-approved protocol or involves procedures beyond standard non-invasive animal husbandry (e.g.: artificial insemination, blood collection). However, animal welfare and safety standards should still be followed.

Resources

1. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 4th Edition. 2020.
2. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations (Blue Book) – 2023

History of Revisions

New guideline approved – IACUC August 2025