

TCFA Feedyard Technician Program



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The objective of the TCFA Feedyard Technician Program is to enlist the support of Agricultural Science Teachers in identifying potential students and offer the educational experiences needed to provide the student with the knowledge and skills needed to prepare them for a potential career in the fed cattle industry. The program is designed to allow the teacher flexibility in utilizing existing class courses and learning experiences to obtain the program goals.

How the program works:

- The program offers two distinct career paths. A student may choose to pursue one or both opportunities.
 - **Cattle Handling and Care**
 - **Machinery Operation, Maintenance and Repair**
- It is suggested that students enroll in at least 4 high school agricultural classes, with the hope that additional classes will be taken. Career and Technology Education (CTE) classes taken outside the agricultural program and/or work experience may be substituted if approved by the Agricultural Science Teacher. Refer to the guidelines below for a list of TEKS and CTE courses that will best serve the students for completion of the TCFA program.
- The student should have participated in some type of extracurricular activity such as FFA, 4-H, or had some type of supervised project experience.
- Additional support material and learning opportunities will be provided by TCFA, Texas AgriLife Extension, WTAMU, industry
- Students, who have successfully completed the required training, should complete an application for testing along with a teacher's evaluation and letter of recommendation.
- Testing to determine if students have mastered the required knowledge and skills to be successful in the feedyard industry will be conducted by representatives of TCFA, the Equipment Industry, and WTAMU and will include a multiple choice test, *skills test, and interview.

Program Components:

Cattle Handling and Care:

- Written Test

- Basic cattle nutrition
- Cattle Handling
- TCFA Beef Quality Assurance Program
- Daily Feedyard Responsibilities
- Skills Test
 - Humane Cattle Handling
 - Cattle processing and care
- Interview
 - Character, Integrity, Leadership
 - Experience and training
 - Knowledge and skills

Machinery Operation, Maintenance and Repair:

- Written test
 - Operation, Inspection and Safety of Skid Loader and Wheel Loader
 - Welding
 - Oxyacetylene Torch
 - Electrical
 - Safety
 - Skills Test
 - Skid loader and Wheel loader operation, inspection and maintenance
 - Welding Techniques, setup safety and shut down
 - Oxyacetylene torch, cutting methods, setup safety and shut down
 - Interview
 - Character, Integrity, Leadership
 - Experience and training
 - Knowledge and skills
- Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of completion and a jacket provided by TCFA.

Suggested Courses	Corresponding TEKS (Basic skills needed to complete TCFA exam)
Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student learns the employability characteristics of a successful employee. • The student demonstrates appropriate personal and communication skills. • The student applies problem-solving, mathematical, and organizational skills in order to plan and propose supervised agricultural experience programs as well as maintain financial and logistical records. • The student develops technical knowledge and skills related to animal systems. • The student describes the principles of food products and processing systems. • The student safely performs basic power, structural, and technical system skills in agricultural applications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student explains the relationship between agriculture and safety, health, and the environment.
Livestock Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student performs technical skills related to livestock production. The student explains anatomy and physiology related to nutrition, reproduction, health, and management of domesticated animals. The student explores the area of animal management as it relates to animal identification, animal characteristics, and behavioral temperament. The student determines nutritional requirements for ruminant and non-ruminant animals, including poultry and communicates the importance of animal nutrition in maintaining a healthy animal.
Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student follows operating instructions for tools and equipment to perform a given task. The student performs appropriate cold and hot metal techniques. The student knows metal merging technology and processes relating to assembly of equipment in agricultural systems operations.
Veterinary Medical Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student communicates the importance of medical terminology, evaluates veterinary terms to discover their meanings, and demonstrates the ability to use terms correctly. The student explores the area of animal management as it relates to animal identification, animal characteristics, and behavioral temperament. The student performs mathematical calculations used in veterinary medicine. The student evaluates animal diseases and identifies internal and external parasites. The student evaluates an animal's health during a clinical examination. The student determines nutritional requirements for ruminant and non-ruminant animals and communicates the importance of animal nutrition in maintaining a healthy animal. The student identifies pharmacology-assisting procedures, skills, and objectives that are included in the job description of an animal care assistant.
Optional Courses	Corresponding TEKS
Professional Standards in Agribusiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student communicates effectively with groups and individuals. The student identifies professional agricultural communications in relation to using appropriate spoken communication techniques and procedures. The student demonstrates the factors of group and individual efficiency. The student identifies and researches current agribusiness issues.
Agricultural Power Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student selects, operates, and maintains agricultural machines and equipment. The student selects, operates, and maintains tractors and agricultural power systems. The student monitors and controls electrical systems as related to agricultural machines and equipment. The student implements control systems as related to agricultural machines and equipment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student describes hydraulic controls and applications as related to agricultural machines and equipment.• The student describes additional control systems as related to agricultural machines and equipment.
Agricultural Facilities Design and Fabrication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student constructs agricultural structures using appropriate technology.• The student demonstrates metal construction techniques related to agricultural design and fabrication.