Sterling College Farm
Guidelines for Student-Owned Livestock
updated March 2014

All student-owned livestock at the Sterling College Farm must be embedded in coursework for academic credit, whether SARP, senior project, or independent study.

Projects must be approved during the semester prior:
- Initial proposal: due by week 7 of the semester prior
- Final approval by: One week before the end of semester prior

The following are examples of the kinds of livestock that might be a part of livestock projects:
- Livestock project 200 level: Pre-req Second semester student. Fiber animals, poultry, or a study of an existing Sterling livestock group. (1-2 credits)
- Advanced Livestock project 300 level: Pre-req ASCI 1 and/or prior experience/ASCI 2/ permission from Sustainable Agricultural Instructional team. Large livestock, lactating livestock, breeding livestock, livestock due to give birth during the study. (2 or more credits)

The following are prohibited for student projects:
Intact male large livestock, diseased animals, animals that pose a danger to students or visitors, illegal animals, or animals that require systems that are not provided by the Sterling campus.

For both types of Livestock Projects a written proposal, according to the guidelines below, is required:
- WHY should you receive learning credit for this project? State your goal, back it up with at least three objectives, and list specific learning activities for each objective. Your evaluation will be based primarily on your commitment to the husbandry of your project, and secondarily on your progress towards your goal.
- WHAT animal(s) will your project involve? List breed and species, age, gender, identification, ownership, health records, production and management goals.
- WHERE will the animal(s) come from? List contact information for the breeder/farm/hatchery. Describe the transportation you will use to get your project here and to remove it.
- WHERE will be animals be house on the farm? Make sure you take into account the placement of other animals on the farm and movement of your animal as your project progresses through the semester.
- WHEN will the animal(s) arrive and depart?
- WHO is your designated back-up person for animal care and WHO is your advisor for the independent study?
- HOW will you manage your project? Summarize your management plan, including
health, nutrition, housing and manure, budget, and life-cycle. How will you be responsible for your project during academic breaks?

After carefully reviewing your proposal, submit it to the Farm Educator for initial review. Once management details have been settled and proposal approved by Farm Educator, submit the proposal to Sustainable Agricultural Instructional Team for approval. Finally, you will need to submit a copy of the proposal to the Dean of the College, and sign up for credits.

Please note the following:
Choose wisely. The health and safety of Sterling livestock, staff, students, and visitors are of first priority. Please don't propose anything that is prohibited, or which might pose a health or safety risk.
Prepare for the responsibility. The College farm provides a land base and basic shelter, but not labor, feed, or financial support. Student-owned animals MUST be cared for by their owners, with a level of commitment that mimics "real farming." Twice-a-day every day chores (even during breaks, minor illnesses, and finals), ARE NOT part of the regular Chores crew's duties. Management decisions, feed and vet bills, and so on are the student-owner's responsibility. Projects that involve building structures or the use of shared land must be approved by the Land and Energy Committee. Barn use and plans for housing location and logistics need to be approved through the farm educator.
A health plan including the following is required: Rabies vaccine (all mammals over 3 months, and within one year), shipping fever and 5-way shot (cattle), Coggins test and EWT vaccine (horses), documentation of basic health and soundness (all livestock).
All projects should include an account of expenses. Students wishing to purchase feed and bedding from Sterling's supplies will work with the farm educator to develop a budget, storage space allocation, and a procurement/delivery plan. Students will also pre-pay the Business Office at the beginning of each semester. Any balance must be settled at the end of each semester or the end of the project, whichever comes first, and prior to a grade being awarded.