

Technology invades cowboy's world

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Print

the word "Cowboy" -- and see the man moving cattle across the plains. picture -- yes. But in this day of technology and the computer, the "cowboy" takes on a new meaning at age.

Students enrolled in the agri-business occupational classes in Clairmont Hall are learning that yesterday's cowpuncher is today's livestock technician.

Students in the livestock nutrition class are learning that one doesn't just turn a cow pasture and expect her to raise meat, but to raise a calf every year without any effort on the rancher's part.

Business instructor Lynn Reagan has brought this point to his students:

"You must know your animal's needs in terms of balanced nutritional rations," he said. "These rations must contain the proper amount of vitamins, minerals, fats, carbohydrates and proteins."

Students warned about dropping classes

Students enrolled at the College should be aware of the consequences involved with the dropping of courses, the Veterans Administration said.

The law, which went into effect last December, requires the VA to retroactively cancel assistance payments for courses dropped after a reasonable drop-add deadline, said Max Cleland, VA administrator.

The law also applies in cases where a student has completed but the grade assigned is not perfect, ignored by the school for graduation requirements—a so-called "non-punitive" grade, Cleland said.

Typically, students will be overpaid under the bill for courses which they have completed or that are not related to their graduation requirements, Cleland said.

Requests for such courses must be stopped as of the first day of a school term, Cleland said.

The safest direction is not to drop a course or request a 'non-punitive' grade without contact is made with the VA affairs office regarding the effect the courses will have upon the veteran's monthly checks.

DuPont sponsors

Automotive painting workshop

An automotive painting workshop, sponsored jointly by automotive instructors at the college and seven representatives of the DuPont Company, was held in the automotive department on Nov. 8.

During the workshop, the DuPont representatives painted a school car with new DuPont paints.

"The new paint holds up better and will not chip or lose its luster as quickly as old paints," said Larry Noonan, automotive department chairman.

The workshop also included a demonstration in color matching and blending. "There are an infinite number of combinations of colors and 5,000 different color combinations coming from the DuPont plants," Noonan said.

The workshop was attended by over 100 people, including students, graduate students and people from industry.

Clackamas Community College

Students are also studying feed additives and digestive anatomy. Currently they are working with feed composition tables and calculators learning to figure proper percentages for composition of feed rations for a variety of livestock.

Livestock judging and selection students are learning that they can't look at a cow, hog or sheep and say that it is a good or poor quality animal. Reagan explains that one not only needs to know why an animal is good or poor quality breeding or meat animal, but also the reasons why.

This class has produced dairy and livestock judging teams which have judged successfully at livestock contests including such top livestock shows as the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland and the Cow Palace exhibition in San Francisco.

These students are learning what the American consumer demands and what the meat packing industry needs in terms of square inches of rib eye, marbling, back fat thickness and length of carcass.

Cowboying really gets down to a fine technical science in the livestock breeding class.

"You can just turn your bull out with your cows and probably get results," Reagan said. "To be successful and produce top quality meat and breeding livestock for the market place, you have to know about genetics, anatomy and physiology, heat detection, breeding, parturition and diseases."

This week, students are at the North Clackamas Land Lab working with live cows and practicing artificial insemination and palpation for a live fetus.

Yes, there are cowgirls and cowboys on campus. However, one might more properly call them modern livestock technicians.

When looking at a Marlboro ad next time, think about the women and men in the College's agri-business classes who are learning how to raise the art of cowboying to the level of fine technical science.



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