

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Basic Agriculture Science

Bill Bretzman

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Description:**

This orientation course builds on the basic skills and knowledge gained in the Introduction course. Major units of instruction include advanced levels of plant science, soil science, and animal science, natural resources, business management, agricultural biotechnology, food science technology, and environmental science. Applied science, math skills, and concepts will be stressed throughout the course as they relate to each area. The development of leadership, employability and computer skills will also be taught. Because FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs (SAEPs) are integral components of this course, students are required to maintain SAEPs, participate in activities of the FFA organization, and be required to be FFA members. Students will also be required 4 hours, outside of classroom instruction in the Central FFA COOP Feed Store per semester.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Explain and understand soil formation, soil characteristics and associated features.

Determine and calculate land use capabilities.

Understand and explain proper use, storage and disposal of pesticides.

Identify the major agricultural pests in our area and ways in which to control them.

Identify crop plants and seeds.

Complete records of an SAE on computerized record keeping system for analysis and evaluation.

Understand and explain the basic principles of the meat industry.

To grade beef carcasses, evaluate wholesale and retail meat cuts.

Identify the major retail cuts of beef, pork and lamb.

Understand and explain livestock and animal reproduction.

Understand modern methods of genetic improvement and biotechnology.

**Required Class Materials:**

You are required to bring to class: paper, writing utensil, 3 ring binder, flash drive (or storage device). A simple calculator is also recommended.

**Text:** none

**Course Outline:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

- 2 wks – Pesticides Use and Safety
- 2 wks – Soil Formation
- 3 wks – Soil Characteristics and Associated Features
- 3wks – Land Use Capabilities & Soil Maps
- 3 wks - Agricultural Pests
- 3 wks – Crop Industry
- 2 wks – SAE

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

- 2 wks – SAE recordkeeping
- 2 wks – Meat Industry
- 3 wks – Meat Identification
- 2 wks – Carcass Grading and Meat Evaluation
- 2 wks – Animal Reproductive Systems
- 2 wks – Artificial Insemination/Embryo Transfer
- 2 wks – Livestock Evaluation
- 3 wks – Using EPD's and Pedigree's

**Major Assignments:**

- Section 10 Land Use (Oct.7, 2009)
- Section 10 Agronomy CDE (Nov. 21, 2009)
- Section 10 Meats CDE (late Feb or early March)
- Completion of Supervised Agriculture Experience record book (Jan.15)
- Complete 1 FFA activity per semester.
- Work a minimum of 4 hours in FFA Co-OP per semester.
- Crop Power Point Presentation
- Weed and Insect Collection (Oct. 23)

**Grading:**

Skyward Name	Category	Weight
Tests	Assessments	35%
In-Class work	Assignments/Labs/Reports/Participation	50%
Homework	SAE & Recordkeeping	10%
Participation	FFA Participation	5%

**Class Policies / Procedures / Expectations:**

1. Students will be in their seat on time, with writing utensils, 3 ring notebooks, due assignments and any other materials needed for class that day.
2. Students will conduct themselves in a manner that allows everyone the right to a good learning environment.
3. Students shall leave materials and objects in the classroom and/or lab alone unless instructed or given permission to use them.
4. Students will participate in classroom and/or lab instruction and activities at all times.
5. Students will be dismissed from class when all materials are returned to proper storage area and teacher verbally dismisses them.
6. Students will confer with teacher if they feel all possible tasks have been completed.
7. Students' heads will be in a upright attentive position without the support of their arms and hands.
8. Students will contact me the day they return from an absence, to update student on missed classroom/lab/greenhouse activities.

**Miscellaneous:** FFA is an integral role of agriculture education. Students are required to be a member of the organization, and attend 1 activity per month. The activity can be a chapter meeting, contest, convention, community service project, etc. \$10 dues are due October 1, 2009

Students must work outside of the classroom hours at the department cooperative. Student hours will be worked during regular coop hours (Tuesday 3:30-5:30 pm and Saturday 8:00 -11:30 am). Meeting the minimum hours required/semester will be reflected as 50% of the semester exam.

**Instructor Contact:**

Email – [wbretzman@cusd4.org](mailto:wbretzman@cusd4.org)

Phone: school 815-694-2321 ext. 2113

Home 815-939-4673