

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Wahpeton, ND 58076**

**Aardvark Husbandry and Marketing
AGRI 424 Syllabus (*Enhanced version*)**

Course Information

Course Number: AGRI 424
Course Title: Aardvark Husbandry and Marketing
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Instructor: Snorri Thorfinnson
M.S. Agricultural Economics
Phone: 701-671-2999
1-800-342-4325, ext. 3-2999
E-mail: snorri.thorfinnson@ndscs.edu
Office: Ag Technology, Room 112
Office Hour: 9-10 a.m., Monday through Friday
3-4 p.m., Monday through Friday
Contact me for an appointment, if the office hours do not agree with your schedule.

Course Description

Since its introduction to the Blue River Valley region in the 1890's as a means of controlling insect infestation in the macaroni beetles, the aardvark has become prized as well for its meat (excellent in hot dishes), its pelt (chiefly used for suspenders), and as a house pet. In this course, students will learn the care, feeding, and training of aardvarks as well as the marketing of aardvark products.

Textbooks and Required Materials

Peterson, Peter O. 1999. *Aardvarks in the Valley: A reminiscence with practical details on the care of aardvarks*. Minneapolis: Lutheran Enterprise Press.

Johnson, John J. 2003. *The care, feeding, and marketing of aardvarks*, 9th ed. Fargo: Youbetcha Publishing.

Course Goals

This course is not designed to demonstrate memorization skills but to develop the ability to apply knowledge, skills, and abilities through demonstrations and projects. The course will focus on skills in critical thinking, communication, and teamwork applied to the care, feeding, and training of aardvarks as well as marketing aardvark projects.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Develop aardvark breeding programs.
2. Design and construct winter summer aardvark housing.
3. Develop appropriate feeding regimens.
4. Understand and utilize pet tanning procedures for the suspenders market.
5. Participate in regional aardvark product marketing.

Grading and Evaluation

Students will be graded on assigned papers (20%), quizzes (20%), exams (20%), and projects according to an established rubric (40%).

A=94-100%

B=86-93%

C=78-85%

D=70-77%

F=69% and below

General Education Learning Outcomes

1. Written and oral communications
2. Critical thinking

Tie to Program Assessment Outcomes

1. Students will develop an understanding of agricultural marketing through research and development of an agricultural marketing plan.

Assessment of learning outcomes will be accomplished through the following project:

Students will analyze the agriculture of their own region of East Dakota, determine which type of aardvark production might be most profitable in their area, develop a marketing plan (to be turned in), and present their approach in class.

Disabilities and Special Needs

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disability Support Services Office, 225 Mildred Johnson Library (phone 671-2623) as early as possible in the term.

Academic Integrity

Integrity is an NDSCS core value and there is an expectation that all students, as members of the college community, adhere to the highest levels of academic integrity.

Dishonesty in class, laboratory, shop work or tests is regarded as a serious offense and is subject to disciplinary action by the instructor and dean of the respective division. For more information, refer to the NDSCS Student Planner or College Catalog under College Policies and Basic Regulations of Conduct.

Attendance Policy/Make-up Policy

Attendance and punctuality are expected in all lecture and laboratory sessions. In-class discussions, activities, and projects are designed to actively involve you in the learning process; therefore attendance will be key to your success in this course.

The Dean's office must be notified of any absence (671-2221). Excused absences are illness (doctor's excuse), death in the family, or institutional activities approved by the Dean's office. Work assignments missed with an excused absence must be made up within three days of returning to school. Work assignments and exams missed due to unexcused absence cannot be made up and will result in a zero.

Classroom Conduct

Students will come to class on-time and prepared for discussion. All students will be respectful of others' ideas and opinions. Participation in class is expected. Cell phones, pagers, and CD players will be turned off when you enter the classroom. No tobacco products are allowed in NDSCS buildings, and in designated areas only.

Study Groups

Students will be required to work in teams on many of the class projects, which may also be used as a study group. Assistance with writing skills can be found in the Academic Service Center, Mildred Johnson Library.

Class Schedule/Important Dates

January 11, 13 (Quiz)
January 16 (Holiday), 18, 20 (Selection of project topic due)
January 23, 25, 27
January 30 (Demonstrations on care)
February 1, 3
February 6, 8, 10
February 13, 15, 18 (Demonstrations on feeding)
February 20 (Holiday) 22, 24
February 27
March 1, 3
March 6, 8, 10 (Demonstrations on training) Mid-term week
March 13-17 (**Spring break!!**)
March 20, 22, 24
March 27, 29, 31
April 3, 5, 7 (**Final day to drop a class**)
April 10, 12, 14 (Good Friday, no classes)
April 17 (Easter holiday, no classes), 19, 21
April 24, 26, 28
May 1,3, 5 (Projects all week)
May 8 Wrap-up and course evaluation
May 9, 11:00 a.m. **FINAL EXAM**

Developed/Revised: January 6, 2006