

McAllen ISD

Agricultural Learning Center

Handbook for Success



Our Vision

McAllen CTE students are equipped with 21st Century technical skills that prepare them academically, social, and emotionally for a highly competitive global economy while being inspired to be lifelong learners that contribute to workforce and community.

Our Mission

The mission of McAllen ISD Career Technical Education Department is to cultivate the potential in all students by integrating rigorous academic instruction and leadership development with relevant work-based skills that lead to high wage, in-demand career and post-secondary opportunities.

Table of Contents:

1. Agricultural Learning Center

- To the student
- To the parent
- Program of study
- Safety

2. Teacher Contact Information

3. Hours of Operation

4. COVID-19 Guidelines

5. Guidelines for Success

- General Guidelines
- Heifer/Steer Guidelines
- Swine Guidelines
- Lamb/Goat Guidelines
- Loading/Hauling Guidelines

6. Classroom Guidelines

Attachments

- Agricultural Learning Center Agreement
- Signature Page

Agriculture Learning Center

The McAllen ISD Agricultural Learning Center (ALC) formerly known as the Ag Farm, has been built on the same property as the original ag farm. This property has been a part of the district for over 30 years. The new facility will be able to house livestock projects for three McAllen ISD High Schools: McAllen, McAllen Memorial, and Rowe. The facility also has a classroom, where classes or workshops will be taught to facilitate agricultural education.

To the student

Welcome to our Agricultural Learning Center. We are proud of the steps you have taken to become leaders in your organization, school, and community. Throughout your time at the Agricultural Learning Center. You will gain leadership skills, responsibility, learn communication skills, and broaden your knowledge in agriculture and animal welfare.

To the parent

Welcome to our Agricultural Learning Center. We are proud of the steps you have taken to assist your student in growing and learning. We look forward to working with you and guiding your family through this experience. Always remember you are not alone in this and we are here to guide you in your journey. We expect you to be involved in all aspects of your student's experience to encourage, guide, and learn with them on a daily basis.

Program Overview

The agriculture program of study follows the Animal Science Pathway and Applied Agriculture Engineering Pathway. This program of study is offered to all students in 9th- 12th grade. The FFA organization is co curricular with the agriculture science program. Therefore, all students must be enrolled in an agriculture science class in order to be an FFA member. FFA membership allows students the opportunity to exhibit livestock projects and compete in all FFA events and contests.

| MCALLEN ISD | | Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Program of Study | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th |
| Animal Science | Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources | Livestock Production | Advanced Animal Science <i>Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science Certification</i> or Welding Ag Mechanics** <i>AWS D9.1 Sheet Metal Welding</i> | Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources <i>Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications Certification</i> or Advanced Animal Science <i>Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science Certification</i> |
| Applied Agricultural Engineering | Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources | Livestock Production** | Welding Ag Mechanics <i>AWS D9.1 Sheet Metal Welding</i> | Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources <i>AWS DLI Structural Steel Welding</i> |

**** Course not part of program of study**

CCMR Industry Based Certification





Agriculture Learning Facility Safety Protocols

Teacher Contact Information

McAllen High School

Mr. Douglas Denny

- **Email:** douglas.denny@mcallenisd.net
- **Phone:** 956-657-3189 (Office)
- **Remind:** 81010 Code: @mchiagffa

Follow us

- **Facebook:** McAllen FFA @McAllenHSFFA
- **Twitter:** @MrDennyMcHiFFA
- **Instagram:** mcallenffa

McAllen Memorial High School

Mrs. Glenda Dallam

- **Email:** Glenda.Dallam@mcallenisd.net
- **Phone:** 956-657-5265 (Office)
- **Remind:** 81010 Code:

Follow us

- **Facebook:** McAllen Memorial FFA @ffastrong
- **Twitter:** @FfaMemorial
- **Instagram:** mcallen_mustang_ffa

James “Nikki” Rowe High School

Mrs. Jessica Torres

- **Email:** jessica.torres@mcallenisd.net
- **Phone:** 956-657-5150 (Office)

Follow us:

- Twitter: @ag_rowe
- Instagram: roweagriculturescience
- Facebook: Rowe FFA @RoweFFA

Hours of Operation

The Agricultural learning Center will open at 5:00am and will close at 9:00pm. The gate access card will not be functional before or after those times. Access to the farm after the 9:00pm time is prohibited.

COVID-19 Guidelines

The district encourages compliance with the Center for Disease Control recommendations with respect to the COVID-19 virus as from time to time may be amended.

General Guidelines

Students enrolled in an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources class and members of their FFA chapter have a variety of project choices. When selecting a project, it is critical that the student has the parents' advice and support. There are many things to consider:

1. Is the student responsible enough to care for the project and will the parents support them with the finances, care and other responsibilities?
2. Where will the project be kept and what show will they be exhibiting in?
3. Transportation to feed and care for the animal?
4. Transportation for the animal when necessary?
5. Time involved?
6. Risk of losing money?
7. If you show a breeding/dairy animal, do you have a place to keep it once the show is over?
8. Responsible and able to feed the animal twice a day, 12 hours apart, morning and afternoon.

Steer and Heifer Guidelines

Supplies needed:

Calf (steer/heifer)

- Show halter
- Halter (Prefer rope halter)
- Show stick
- Lead Rope
- Feeder
- Water bucket
- Brush, water trough or bucket
- Comb other supplies as needed

A common rule of thumb is that a steer will eat approximately 2.5% to 3% of his body weight per day, while a heifer will eat approximately 2.0% to 3.5% of her body weight per day.

Example: If your calf weighs 500 lbs., 3% of 500 is 15lbs.

500 Thus, one will be feeding 7.5 lbs. In
x .03 the a.m. and 7.5 lbs. in the p.m.
15.00

Hay (roughage) is important for the animal's digestive system. Hay keeps the digestive system functioning properly, and protects the animal from going off feed. If your calf has never eaten grain, starts slow, maybe just a few pounds of grain. Eventually, it will learn to eat the grain. Make sure the animal is eating all that you feed him. If the animal is not, do not increase the feed until he/she can "clean up" all of the feed. It is recommended to feed a small amount of hay on a daily basis.

Ideally, one should weigh the calf once every two weeks or so to determine if desired weight is being achieved. Steers are animals that are raised for market, while heifers are raised for production. Thus, heifers should be fleshy and not fat. Exercise projects according to Ag teacher recommendations.

Deworming the animal will prevent and rid the animal of external and internal parasites. This should be done every 30-40 days. Hoof trimming and de-horning will be done as needed. As fall weather approaches, some steers rations will probably need to be adjusted to include extra steam rolled corn and or barley. This begins the finishing process of the animal. Always consult with the Ag Teachers before adding anything to your feed or if you are uncertain about something. All steers are different and call for different adjustments in their rations. Use supplements as needed and consult with Ag-Teachers before using them.

Steer/heifer should be rinsed down every other day and bathed once a week with mild Shampoo or a mild dish soap such as dawn or joy. Never rinse down an overheated animal as this could cause shock.

Showmanship is extremely important and should be practiced at least four times a week.

Consult with your teacher for showing techniques.

Along with proper feeding and deworming, don't forget to make sure your animal(s) have clean, fresh water on a daily basis.

RECOMMENDED FEEDING TIMES:

First feeding-----5:00 a.m.–7:30 a.m.

Second feeding-----5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Feed your animal at the same time EVERYDAY, WEEKENDS and HOLIDAYS rain or shine. Improper feeding will result in poor weight gain and poor appetites.

Swine Guidelines

Swine are monogastric animals, meaning they have a simple stomach similar to humans. These animals are hardy and will eat and grow well if they are treated properly. These guidelines will allow you to maximize your experience by giving you the basic foundation to caring for your swine project efficiently and effectively.

1. Feed your project twice a day- 12 hours apart
2. Ask your advisor about how much feed you should be feeding per feeding
3. Ask your advisor for guidance on feed type and any supplements
4. Monitor your project's health daily, if you notice anything is off in any way please contact your advisor
5. Deworm your project once every 3-4 weeks
6. Clean your pens daily
7. Bathe your project once every two weeks
8. Give oats as advised by your advisor- oats necessary roughage for the nonruminant diet and should be given twice daily to keep their system regular.
9. Brush cocoa butter lotion in the skin after each bath to ensure skin stays healthy

Basic Supplies:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Feeder | 5. Feed |
| 2. Show stick | 6. Brush |
| 3. Aluminum bin for feed | 7. Cocoa butter lotion |
| 4. Oats | 8. Wound care supplies |
| | 9. Water pipe for shows |

*Other supplies as recommended by your advisor

Tips for success:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ● Consistency is key- feed, water, supplements, exercise | ● Be prepared |
| ● Communicate with your show team and advisor | ● Never leave animals unattended at shows |
| ● Do your own research | ● Be responsible |
| ● Know all aspects of your project | ● Be respectful |
| ● Practice, practice, practice | ● Be honest and fair |
| ● Be on time | ● A clean pen= healthy, happy animals |

Lamb and Goat Guidelines

Lambs and Goats are ruminant animals meaning they have a four compartment stomach. These animals are hardy and will eat and grow well if they are treated properly. These guidelines will allow you to maximize your experience by giving you the basic foundation to caring for your lamb or goat project efficiently and effectively.

1. Feed your project twice a day- 12 hours apart
2. Ask your advisor about how much feed you should be feeding per feeding
3. Ask your advisor for guidance on feed type and any supplements
4. Give clean, fresh water to your project twice a day- 12 hours apart
5. Monitor your project's health daily, if you notice anything is off in any way please contact your advisor
6. Deworm your project once every 3-4 weeks
7. Clean your pens daily
8. Bathe your project once every two weeks
9. Give hay as advised by your advisor- hay is necessary roughage for the ruminant diet and should be given twice daily to keep their system regular.

Basic Supplies:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Muzzle | 6. Aluminum bin for feed Storage |
| 2. Rope Halter | 7. Hay |
| 3. Show collar- goats only | 8. Feed |
| 4. Feeder | 9. Brush |
| 5. 5 gallon bucket for water | 10. Wound care supplies |

*Other supplies as recommended by your advisor

Tips for success:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ● Consistency is key- feed, water, supplements, exercise | ● Be prepared |
| ● Communicate with your show team and advisor | ● Never leave animals unattended at shows |
| ● Do your own research | ● Be responsible |
| ● Know all aspects of your project | ● Be respectful |
| ● Practice, practice, practice | ● Be honest and fair |
| ● Be on time | ● A clean pen= healthy, happy animals |

Loading and Hauling Guidelines

Students and parents may opt to haul their own livestock projects to prospect shows or livestock shows. Teachers will haul to specific shows that they inform their students about. However, the students and parents must do the following if hauling their animal with the teacher.

1. Be prompt for all loading and unloading times
 - a. If you're early you're on time, If you're on time you're late, and if you're late then you're left behind.
2. Be prepared with all your show supplies
3. Arrive at the showgrounds to unload your livestock project on time
 - a. Do not stop to get breakfast that can be picked up after unloading at the show.
4. Assist in unloading and loading of animals as needed
5. Do not hit or act aggressively toward any animal projects
 - a. Everyone has a camera and will use it!
6. Be respectful of other livestock projects and students
7. Collect all your belongings after the show
8. If you are hauling yourself you must inform your advisor 24 hours in advance to allow proper arrangements to be made for the gate to be open.
9. Always close pen gates prior to leaving to the show
10. You must be present to load up your own animal project at the show, it is your responsibility.

Classroom Guidelines

1. Clean up after yourself
2. Classroom will be locked at all times
3. Agriculture Science Teacher must be present when in use
4. Classroom use will be scheduled between the three agriculture science teachers
5. Do not leave any items in the classroom- food, drinks, supplies, personal belongings, etc.

Agriculture Learning Center Equipment

The ALC has provided wheelbarrows, shovels, water hoses, trim chutes, brooms etc. It is the responsibility of all students and parents to maintain the supplies we have available to us. In order to be able to maintain cleanliness of the facility and equipment we ask that you follow the guidelines below.

1. Place all tools, wheelbarrows, and brooms back in their designated area after each use
2. Clean and wash the wheelbarrows out after each use prior to placing them in their designated area.
3. Clean any manure, dirt, hay in barn aisles, side walks, or washracks and dispose of it in manure bins
4. Clean any hair or wool from clippings and dispose of it in manure bins
5. Do not use any float waterers
6. Put all feeders and hay nets on side walls of pens
7. Clean the area that covers the drain behind your pen
8. Do not attach personal hoses to water spigots above pens