Department: Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Clerkship Title: Food Animal Practice Clerkship

Course #: LCS 631  Credits: 3  Type: Either LCS 621 or LCS 631 is required

Prerequisites: None

Re-enrollment: Not Allowed

Course Moderator: Dr. Kopcha

Faculty: Adjunct Clinical Faculty (private veterinary practitioners throughout Michigan); Faculty Liaisons (LCS campus faculty)

Course Objectives: To provide students with introductory on-farm experience in examination, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of common medical and surgical conditions of food animals and applied herd health management, including reproductive health management, mastitis control, ration evaluation, and practical prophylactic strategies to prevent production diseases. In addition, students will receive an introduction to many of the challenges that accompany the delivery of animal health care services in a private practice setting. These will include personnel management, inventory control, accounts receivable, professional fees, and financial management.

Course Content: Students will be assigned to a participating veterinary practice and will spend the majority of their time with the supervising veterinarian(s) on farm calls or performing laboratory or office duties directly related to these calls. It is expected that students participate in emergency calls received out of regular business hours, i.e., nights and weekends. During such activities, the participating veterinarian is expected to: 1) involve students in as many diagnostic and therapeutic procedures as possible; 2) discuss diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic considerations, including drug residue avoidance/withdrawal times, with students; and 3) take time in the practice vehicle to discuss and assess farm management, current disease problems, and application of disease prevention techniques wherever possible.

To the extent possible, as limited by the case load, this food animal educational experience will include: clinical examination (physical exam and history taking), restraint, diagnosis, administration of medications, regulatory medicine, anesthesia techniques, reproductive management, vaccination programs, parasite control, dispensing medication, writing bills, practice management, veterinary ethics, client communication, surgery, and emergency procedures. Students will receive as much “hands-on” experience as is feasible within the constraints of normal practice activity.

It is expected that students will spend approximately 10% of their time learning about the business management procedures used in the practice. The goal of this aspect of the clerkship is to expose students to the basics of veterinary practice management, including personnel management, inventory control, ordering procedures, client billing, and finances. Students should be given time to discuss these issues with the responsible persons in the practice. The supervising veterinarian is expected to explain to the student the basis of client fees and how fees are revised.
Duties of Student: Students will arrange a PRE-CLERKSHIP meeting with their practice’s campus liaison AT LEAST 3 WEEKS before their clerkship begins. Students are required to keep a daily log (see Daily Activity Log information sheet) of each individual animal health or management problem encountered during the clerkship. The last page in the log must be initialed by the supervising veterinarian, and the log must be submitted to the program secretary at the end of the rotation. Also, students are to select 2 cases to describe in-depth and submitted as cases reports. Students are also required to complete the Written Assignment to evaluate the clinical practice and the business management in the practice, including personnel management, staffing, inventory, fees, accounts receivable etc.

Students must complete an evaluation of the rotation (Evaluation of Practice and Practitioners form). This form should be submitted, along with the Student Progress Report, Daily Activity Log, Daily Activity Summary Form, Student Participation Summary form, and Written Assignments to the program secretary on the first Monday after the completion of the food animal practice clerkship. The program secretary will contact students when all material has been forwarded to the liaison. Students must then contact their liaison within two weeks after receiving notification to arrange for the post clerkship meeting.

In addition to the above, students will be involved in night and weekend emergency calls. The intent of the program is to provide a realistic experience in a large animal practice. Students are expected to live close to the practice to facilitate participation in after-hours activities and are discouraged from commuting daily to the practice unless prior arrangements have been made with the program coordinator.

Evaluation of Student’s Performance: A Student Progress Report form is provided with each student packet for recording the student’s progress at the end of the first week of the rotation. This form is to be signed by the supervising veterinarian and the student certifying that the student has been informed of his/her progress in the rotation. The course coordinator or faculty liaison will also contact the supervising veterinarian at the end of the first week of the rotation to get an oral report of the student’s progress and identify potential problems in performance that would necessitate a meeting of the student, the veterinarian, the faculty liaison, and the course coordinator.

Within one week after completion of the rotation, the supervising veterinarian must submit the Evaluation of Student Performance form with the final grade to the program secretary. Students are graded on the Pass, Pass with Reservation, or Fail system (Pass-No Grade as per the University category).

Student Insurance: Purchase of health insurance is the responsibility of the student. Michigan State University encourages all students to have appropriate health insurance. College of Veterinary Medicine students completing their clinical experience in the food animal practice clerkship will be covered by the liability insurance of Michigan State University.

Housing: Local housing arrangements will be made with the assistance of the supervising veterinarian. It is expected that many locations will have an efficiency apartment or similar accommodations available within the practice. In situations where this is not the case, alternative local housing will be arranged at university expense.

Transportation: Students will be responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the practice.

Required Texts or Reading Assignments: As assigned by the supervising veterinarians(s).

Recommended Reading: 1) Large Animal Internal Medicine, Smith; 2) Herd Health: Food Animal Reproduction Medicine, Radostits, Leslie, Fetrow

Equipment Needed: As determined by the supervising veterinarian(s).

Dress Attire: As determined by the supervising veterinarian(s).  

Reviewed: 2/07