Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development – Animal Science

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Opening #1500418

Provide leadership for dynamic 4-H animal science Extension programs in North Dakota

Position Information

The position is part of a team committed to working in coordination with other Animal Sciences Department faculty and staff to lead, organize, implement, manage, market and evaluate youth (4-H) animal science programs, competitions, events and curriculum. These duties also include working with other faculty, Extension specialists, Extension agents, youth, adult volunteers and animal industry stakeholders.

This is a full-time, 12-month non-tenure track position with the NDSU Extension Service; some evening and weekend work is required. This position is jointly responsible to the Center for 4-H Youth Development and the Department of Animal Sciences. It reports to the Center for 4-H Youth Development Chair with input from the Department of Animal Sciences Head. The office will be located within the Department of Animal Sciences, Hultz Hall, NDSU campus. The position will be mutually supported by office staff from both departments.

This position includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities:

• Serve in a lead role to plan, develop, implement and evaluate youth (4-H) animal science programs related to equine and livestock. This includes the educational resources offered, competitions and events conducted at the state level. It also includes coordination and involvement in a select number of national events. The candidate will also gather input in an organized manner from youth, adult volunteers, staff and other stakeholders who will serve in an advisory capacity to the programming efforts.

• Work with Extension staff and others to develop, implement, deliver and evaluate new and innovative 4-H Youth Development Extension programming and learning experiences in the area of animal sciences at the county and area levels.

• Develop, design, deliver and evaluate volunteer and staff training needed to blend animal science subject matter content with best practices in positive youth development. The candidate will be expected to work closely with animal sciences and 4-H youth development faculty and staff as appropriate for the subject matter.

• Review opportunities for external support through grants, contracts and special projects to determine appropriateness for the North Dakota 4-H program. Write, manage and fulfill requirements for those grant funds that are secured. Work collaboratively with other states and organizations.

• Communicate 4-H philosophy, mission and values through development and implementation of programmatic policies and procedures for the 4-H animal sciences program with both internal and external stakeholders.

• Support statewide 4-H Youth Development program efforts through participation in program planning and development discussions; and participation in North Dakota 4-H and Department of Animal Sciences program activities when appropriate.

• Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

• Earned Master's degree at the time of employment in animal science, equine science, youth development or a closely related field.

• Experience with one or more areas of equine science, animal science and/or youth programming.

• Demonstrated experience using organizational and logistical skills, with attention to detail, to lead, organize, implement, manage, market and evaluate youth-focused educational programs related to equine and/or animal science.

• Demonstrated experience in teaching and positively interacting with and managing youth and adults.

• Demonstrated experience in collaborating as part of a team for a diverse audience of internal and external stakeholders.

• Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including oral, written and listening skills.

• Demonstrated experience effectively using technology to accomplish youth-focused educational programs related to equine and/or animal science.

• Demonstrated experience working with minimal supervision, including prioritizing workloads to meet deadlines.

• Possess a valid driver's license.

Preferred Qualifications

• Ph.D. or five or more years of professional experience in designing, conducting and evaluating education programs for youth and volunteers related to the youth development and/or animal and/or equine science areas.

• Successful experience working with land-grant university Extension programs.

• Record of successful partnerships at community, state and/or national levels.

• Prior experience with the equine and livestock industries, and youth livestock and equine events, shows and competitions.

• Demonstrated ability to write, manage and fulfill grant, contract and special project requirements.