Provisioning innovative Extension programs, field projects, and demonstrations that will serve ranchers, stockmen, and others in the beef and livestock industry.

Position Information

The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service and Hettinger Research Extension Center (HREC) is recruiting a highly motivated educator to serve as an area livestock specialist for southwest North Dakota and to cooperate with state-wide Extension efforts. This is a 12-month, non-tenure track position. The successful applicant will have a 100% Extension appointment. The NDSU Extension Service is an organization that values people who excel, adapt easily, exhibit passion for helping others and are excellent communicators. The area livestock specialist is a member of a statewide Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources team responsible for providing leadership to create and deliver innovative learning experiences that empower North Dakotans to improve their lives and communities.

Programming will focus primarily on beef management and will provide education to Extension agents, producers and agricultural processors. Secondary programming responsibilities may include the use of multi-species grazing to benefit rangelands and collaborations with the existing wildlife, livestock and agronomy scientists at the HREC.

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

- Develop an innovative Extension program that includes the identification, assessment and delivery of educational programs that will facilitate the development of beef extension programming opportunities for Extension agents, ranchers, landowners and government entities.
- Support stakeholder groups as they address regional land-use planning for economic and environmental sustainability as Conservation Reserve Program lands return to agricultural production.
- Provide expertise and continuing education training to Extension agents, area, and state specialists to strengthen the knowledge base of Extension personnel statewide.
- Provide expertise and assistance in beef, livestock management, and sustainable grazing systems.
- Stay current in the management practices and issues for beef operations within the area of the HREC.
- Collaborate with appropriate area and state Extension specialists, research faculty, Extension agents, and HREC faculty and staff to deliver statewide beef and livestock related programs.
- Develop individual and team based Extension programs and publications that disseminate information to producers, industry personnel, and Extension agents.
- Communicate with other Extension personnel, appropriate Research Extension Center personnel, and stockmen about issues that need new or additional research. When appropriate, provide leadership for the development and demonstration of novel management strategies that ensure program relevancy and the ability to guide stockmen efforts to adapt to changing production systems.
- Secure extramural funding to support beef Extension programming efforts.
- Develop relationships and cooperate with research and Extension faculty within the NDSU Department of Animal Sciences.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- M.S. in animal science or closely related field.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and deliver hands-on education to Extension agents and producers.
- Excellent interpersonal, and oral and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in working with varied audiences, including individuals and groups, as a team member.
- Proficiency in computer applications for delivering educational programs.
- Valid driver’s license.

Preferred Qualifications

- Ph.D. in animal science or closely related field.
- Knowledge and experience with beef cattle production in northern Great Plains.
- Closely related course work such as nutrition, reproduction, genetics and rangeland management.
- Experience working with Extension and/or the land-grant university system.
- Demonstrated skills in web-based education and communication, and other electronic usage.
- Proven publication skills.
- Proven grant-writing skills.