Feedlot Nutrition and Management Specialist

The University of Nebraska is seeking to fill a Feedlot Nutrition and Management Specialist position. This is a 12-month, tenure-leading, open rank, 50% research, 50% extension position in the Department of Animal Science and is located at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The appointee will conduct extension and research programs focused on efficiency, profitability, and environmental management of feedlot cattle production in the Central High Plains.

The cattle feeding sector is a major contributor to the $1.3 billion total market value of livestock sales in the Nebraska Panhandle. There are about 130 cattle feeders in the 16-county University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension District. These feeders benefit from the locally available feedstuffs, the low rainfall and humidity climate, and easily accessible processing plants in the region. The Panhandle Research and Extension feedlot is strategically located and poised to be the key land-grant university research feedlot across the Central High Plains.

The appointee will have statewide extension and research responsibilities in collaboration with other research and extension professionals. The appointee will serve as the Faculty Supervisor for the Panhandle Research Feedlot, a responsibility that includes the development, funding, and conduct of research trials and oversight of personnel, cattle management, marketing, and facilities. The incumbent will regularly engage an advisory committee composed of feedlot managers and related industry personnel to help direct and support extension and research projects.

The research responsibility is to identify and develop enhanced nutrition and management strategies for growing/finishing beef cattle and to work within a systems approach that is suitable to the Central High Plains region of the United States. The goal is to improve efficiency, profitability, animal well-being and management systems of feedlot cattle in areas of high priority to the region and in concert with ongoing activities at the University of Nebraska.

The incumbent is expected to develop an aggressive and productive research program valued by Panhandle feedlot operators, regional feeding industry, and related industry partners. Aggressive publication of results in peer-reviewed journals is an expectation as well as acquisition of external grant funds to augment existing support. Significant publication and revenue generation will be required to maintain an active program that meets expectations for this position.

The extension education component of this position will focus on enhanced management strategies of beef cattle that would lead to improved profitability, animal health and well-being, environmental quality and product acceptability in Nebraska and Plains feeding regions. The incumbent will provide leadership to engage learners with creative and innovative educational initiatives that promote learning and result in changes in behavior or practice. Methods could include peer-learning venues, workshops, demonstration projects, feedlot visits, and training programs targeted at feed yard owners, managers, employees and...
potential employees. An opportunity for the person in this position is to help recruit and train workforce for feedlot operations in the region. Efforts should engage county-based Extension Educators whenever possible. Provision of educational and professional development support for feedlot consultants and Extension Educators is an important responsibility of this position. Also, to develop and support appropriate publications, videos, websites, social media, and other information resources to provide timely insight for feedlot clientele.

As a University of Nebraska and Department of Animal Science faculty member, the incumbent is expected to participate in activities and committees that contribute to the total University program. Cooperative and interdisciplinary research and extension efforts with colleagues at PHREC and other administrative units are expected. Evolving partnerships with other Universities and ARS units in the region will provide added collaborative opportunities.

Support the IANR educational mission by advising or mentoring graduate students (joint with on-campus colleagues), presenting guest lectures, and participating in recruitment, retention and placement activities of undergraduate and graduate students as appropriate.

The incumbent will provide leadership for beef cattle growing/finishing expertise in the Nebraska Panhandle under the supervision of the Director of the Panhandle Research and Extension Center and the Head of the Department of Animal Science. Administrative matters and program development within the District will be coordinated by the Research and Extension Director. Program development relative to state-wide program thrusts, scientific quality and professional development will be coordinated with the Department Head.

A Ph.D. in Animal Science or closely related discipline, with the degree completed before employment begins, and expertise in ruminant nutrition are required. For the Associate or Full Professor level, an externally supported, nationally recognized extension and research program in the area of feedlot nutrition or equivalent industry experience is required.

Candidates with expertise in feed yard nutrition and/or management; fiscal management experience related to managing cattle or projects; strong evidence of ability to garner extramural and grant funding; strong evidence of ability to publish in peer-reviewed publications; strong evidence for publishing/presenting extension materials; experience and/or training in developing extension programming; experience with training agriculture personnel; excellent written and verbal communication skills; evidence of collaboration and working on collaborative teams; and familiarity with feed yard cattle production, with knowledge of High-Plains feeding regions are preferred.

To view details of the position and make application, go to http://employment.unl.edu, requisition F_190054. Click “Apply to this job” and complete the information form. Attach a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three professional references. Review of applications will begin May 24, 2019 and continue until the position is filled or the search is closed.

As an EO/AA employer, qualified applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation. See http://www.unl.edu/equity/notice-nondiscrimination.