

Research Profile – Christopher Schauer

Christopher Schauer, PhD
Department: Hettinger Research Extension Center
REC Location: Hettinger, ND



Brief background about yourself:

B.S., Animal and Range Sciences, NDSU - 1997
M.S., Ruminant Nutrition, NDSU - 2000
Ph.D., Ruminant Nutrition, Oregon State University - 2003
Post-Doctoral Research Associate, NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center – 2003 – 2006
Director, NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center – 2006 - present

Tell us about the goals of your research program?

My research interests are nutritional management of grazing livestock, improving reproductive efficiency of cattle and sheep, nutritional management of feedlot cattle and sheep, and grazing strategies to improve the ecologic and economic sustainability of livestock production in Southwestern North Dakota. My outreach interests include technical trainings for the evaluation of carcass ultrasound, shearing, and sheep management schools conducted throughout ND.

More specifically, what is the primary focus of your current research?

Currently, my research focuses on the following topics:

1. Alternative grazing systems for cattle and sheep that evaluate multiple use of lands (grazing, wildlife habitat, cover crops) in addition to livestock performance.
2. Decreasing embryonic death loss in sheep, specifically through the practical application of supplementation programs during early gestation.
3. Decreasing feed costs and increasing feed efficiency in feedlot lambs through the use of alternative feed stuffs (dried distillers grains, use of ionophores).

What are your long term objectives?

The long term objectives of my research are to decrease the costs associated with feeding livestock and optimize the use of grazing lands.

How do you feel it will impact the region, nationally, globally?

With high commodity prices, as well as escalating land prices, utilization of alternative grazing systems and alternative feeds that can decrease production costs for livestock producers will be necessary for livestock production to remain profitable.

When finished, what will your work mean? What will it mean to the state of ND?

Hopefully I will provide real-life alternatives for livestock producers to maximize profitability while maintaining the “sustainability” of their land.

What excites you the most about your project?

It is gratifying to work with livestock producers on their problems, and find solutions that are applicable.

Do you have any graduate/undergraduate students helping with this project?

Yes, I traditionally employ a couple of graduate students in animal science, and work with the Department of Animal Sciences at NDSU to provide summer internships to undergraduates working on their BS in Animal Science.

If so, what are their names/graduate program/or undergraduate majors/and duties with the research?

All of my graduate students are either working on their MS or PhD in Animal Science, either in reproductive management in sheep or lamb finishing.

What is the greatest reward after the completion of a project?

My greatest reward is seeing my graduate students succeed, starting with their thesis/dissertation, through to publication of the work in refereed journal articles, and eventual employment. Seeing their research become reality in the livestock industry is extremely rewarding.

Do you teach any undergraduate or graduate level classes?

No.

What is your advice for students who want to go into your field of study?

Get involved at an early age with 4H and/or FFA and become involved in the livestock industry. Gain experiences not just at home, but working for other ranches/companies and abroad. The more diverse experiences you have will widen the range of opportunities when you are searching for employment.

What are some of your hobbies/activities you like to do when you are not spending time on your research?

My wife and five children and I raise purebred Polypay sheep, are active in 4H and Cubscouting, and pursue all types of outdoor activities (hunting, fishing, waterskiing, camping).

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Christopher:

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