

<b>Title:</b>	<i>Integrated Forage and Livestock Grazing Systems</i>
<b>Duration:</b>	10 weeks (approximately May 16 – July 31, 2023)
<b>Compensation:</b>	\$5,000 stipend and job-related travel reimbursement
<b>Minimum age:</b>	18
<b>Minimum requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Must be currently enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university in a course of study relevant to the mission of Extension.</li> <li>● Must have completed sophomore year prior to the start of the program.</li> <li>● Must NOT be eligible to graduate prior to December 2023.</li> <li>● Must possess a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale at the time of application (exceptions will be considered with substantial justification).</li> <li>● Must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident.</li> <li>● Must be willing to travel (regionally and possibly internationally) and occasionally work flexible hours outside of a traditional M-F, 8-5 schedule.</li> <li>● Must have a valid driver’s license and reliable personal vehicle.</li> <li>● Must be willing to travel (regionally and possibly internationally) and work flexible hours. In other words, this position requires travel connected with official duties, including attendance at night and weekend meetings, conferences, etc. (Travel reimbursement will be provided.)</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred qualifications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have experience working with volunteers and youth.</li> <li>● Familiarity with animal and forage production environments</li> <li>● Good writing and communication skills.</li> <li>● Self-motivated learner that can coordinate and implement projects.</li> <li>● Ability to analyze and synthesize scientific information.</li> <li>● Committed to working with diverse clientele and colleagues.</li> <li>● Ability to work effectively and build relationships with others.</li> <li>● Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.</li> <li>● Have basic knowledge and skill of operating farm equipment.</li> <li>● Have good organization and planning skills and be able to demonstrate effective project coordination, facilitation, and implementation based on past work or school experiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be able to lift more than 50 pounds.</li> <li>● Be able to work in areas with dust particles.</li> <li>● Be able to work with livestock (ex. Cattle).</li> <li>● Be able to stand in their feet for extended periods of time.</li> <li>● Be able to work under summer hot and humid conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Apprenticeship Description:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are you interested in agriculture, animal production, or applied scientific research? If so, then this unique experience will provide you with the opportunity to conduct, analyze, and present applied agricultural research, develop Extension materials, and become familiar with forage production and grazing management in the southern USA through meetings and discussions with researchers and industry representatives. The apprentice selected for this program will walk away with a set of tangible skills that employers and graduate schools’ value. Specifically, the apprentice will:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with an MSU Extension mentor and other Extension personnel and stakeholders to coordinate research and implement related outreach program events and activities.</li> <li>● Participate in meetings where local issues are identified and prioritized, and program results and plans are discussed. Assist in preparations for planned events and activities by gathering information, assembling materials, contacting participants, and soliciting support from external sources. As appropriate, conduct the teaching, training, or other program presentations.</li> <li>● Maintain a reflection journal outlining apprenticeship experiences.</li> <li>● Conduct a research project to investigate the impact of establishing of forage crops small plots and grazing paddocks.</li> <li>● Participate in experimental design, field work, data collection and analysis, scientific writing, and organizing and presenting results.</li> <li>● Develop an academic poster to be presented at a Producer Advisory Meeting, the MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, and a regional forage meeting such as Southern Pasture Forage Conference or the American Society of Agronomy Southern Branch.</li> <li>● Presenting the work in person or virtually during the Warm-season Forage Field Day, webinars, or social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.</li> <li>● Participate on farm-visits and develop producer’s forage management recommendations.</li> <li>● Shadow ANR Ag agents across the state to learn about regional and county level extension programs as well as work with another forage/livestock scientist.</li> <li>● Learn and implement technologies used in forage research and producer assessment such as NIRS, NDVI, UAV, phone applications, etc.</li> <li>● Maintain a reflection journal outlining apprenticeship experiences.</li> <li>● Develop and present a poster or presentation at an industry-related conference or professional meeting identified by the Extension mentor.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Information:</b></p>	<p>Housing is not provided. However, program administrators may be able to assist you in finding an affordable place to live.</p> <p>For specific questions about this undergraduate apprenticeship opportunity, please contact:</p> <p><b>Dr. Rocky Lemus</b>  Professor and Extension Forage Specialist  Department of Plant and Soil Sciences  Phone: (662) 325-7718  <a href="mailto:Rocky.Lemus@msstate.edu">Rocky.Lemus@msstate.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Application Process:</b></p>	<p>Online application due by <b>11:59 PM on February 14, 2023.</b></p>