

Michigan State University Sheep Teaching and Research Center Manager Position

The Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University is seeking applications for a farm manager to supervise its Sheep Teaching and Research Unit. This position will oversee and coordinate operations of flock of approximately 350 ewes currently comprised of both purebred and commercial ewes in a modern sheep production system. The unit will receive a substantial renovation in 2015 consisting of: 1) a field laboratory and research complex, 2) a center aisle feeding system to allow precision feeding of a total mixed ration, 3) a controlled climate indoor birth facility, 4) substantial upgrades in pasture subdivision and watering systems, and 5) a modern sheep handling system. The successful applicant will be at the ground floor in development and implementation of these substantial improvements. Job responsibilities will include execution and/or development of: a pro-active health care and biosecurity program, a comprehensive nutritional management program (grazing and mechanized feeding systems), an accelerated breeding program, a comprehensive pasture and land management program, maintenance and improvement of a modern sheep production facility, electronic record keeping for the farm system (financial, regulatory, animal health and animal and land productivity), training and coordination of a student labor force, and comprehensive support for teaching, research, and extension activities.

The successful candidate will have superior communication skills (interpersonal, written and oral), excellent organization and time management skills to be able to multi task, and effective teaching and supervision skills; all required to meet the diverse needs of a university farm with a mission focus on teaching, research and outreach. The candidate will also possess mechanical and construction skills necessary for facility maintenance and improvement and for critical assessment needed for decisions on equipment and facility repairs or replacement.

Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Animal Science or related field and 2 years of related work experience that includes farm management.

Preferred Qualifications: Master's degree in animal science or related field. Specialized livestock management skills with a preference for sheep-specific experience including execution and/or development of:

- Health care and biosecurity programs
- Comprehensive nutritional management programs (grazing and mechanized feeding)
- Accelerated breeding programs (birth intervals less than 12 months)
- Pasture and land management/improvement programs
- Maintenance and improvement of modern livestock production facilities
- Electronic record keeping (financial, regulatory, animal health, animal and land productivity)
- Experience training and coordinating a student labor force
- Experience in support of teaching, research, and extension activities
- Experience in teaching and developing curriculum for college or adult students

Salary: Minimum \$47,626

To apply: complete application at jobs.msu.edu (Support Staff tab) Posting #0983

**Contact Information: Richard Ehrhardt office: 517-353-2906; cell: 517-899-0040
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