EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR VETERINARY STUDENTS THROUGH THE
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO (UI)
AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)
AT THE U.S. SHEEP EXPERIMENT STATION (USSES) FACILITY IN DUBOIS, IDAHO:

The USSES Veterinary Student Externship is a collaborative program between the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station and the University of Idaho (UI). All of the animals on the facility are currently involved in active research projects. The objective of this externship is to:

1) Allow veterinary students to gain experience in the diagnosis and treatment of periparturient disease/problems and perinatal disease/problems of sheep
2) Expose students to research in ruminant nutrition, range management, reproductive physiology, genetics and production systems

This externship is a 2 week intensive, hands-on experience. The student will work as part of a team to provide the best yet most practical medical care in a timely fashion, using a herd health approach. At the same time the student must take into consideration the research being done when making treatment decisions.

The student will work 7 days a week and be on call 24 hours a day. The pace is fast and can be physically demanding with the majority of the day spent outside. The weather is usually cold with snow, rain, mud, and wind however; the sun does shine at times!

Although the student may be challenged physically and endure long, atypical working hours, the consensus of past students is that this is one of the best, most practical hands-on experiences they received in Veterinary School. This experience gave them an opportunity to think on their own and practice multiple medical procedures as one might see in practice after graduation regardless of the species they choose to work with.

The USSES has approximately 3000 sheep, 15 horses, and 20 dogs. About 2800 mixed age breeding ewes which are lambed in the traditional shed lambing system. The externship only allows room for 13 students each year. The 13 students will be spread out from the 2nd week in March – 1st week in May. The student numbers may vary from 1-4 per week during the rotation. A student may request specific dates, but will not be guaranteed those dates. Students who do not originally place in a slot will be put on a waiting list. Once a student is approved and commits to doing the externship the student is expected to follow-through. Not doing so will result in negative feedback to the students’ academic advisor and makes it very difficult on the staff in trying to fill the slot and cover the students’ workload.

The working students play a key role in the lambing process and are counted upon daily for the job they do. If there are extenuating circumstances once a student has accepted the externship, the student needs to contact the USSES/UI Veterinary Student Externship Administrator IMMEDIATELY. If for any reason a student arrives yet fails to complete the 2 week externship, the student will be financially responsible for their early departure.

Evaluation of the student is based on the veterinarian’s view of their knowledge, skills, work habits, attitude, and ability to work with people. There are no formal examinations. Students will have some opportunity to discuss ongoing research at the station with scientists whose disciplines including physiology, genetics, nutrition, and range science. One afternoon during the rotation will be designated to allow for this.

** Due to Zoonotic Diseases, you are not allowed to come for an externship if you are pregnant!
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE USSES/UI VETERINARY STUDENT EXTERNSHIP:

- Fill out and return completed “STUDENT AGREEMENT FORM”
- Read, understand and be capable of the list of “REQUIRED SKILLS” and “ESSENTIAL DUTIES”
- Must be a US Citizen
- Provide current Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Provide copy of academic transcripts (unofficial is acceptable)
- Submit a Letter of Intent (no longer than half of a typed page) which should include the following:
  1) How you heard about the USSES Veterinary Student Externship (if a professor, please provide a name)
  2) Your expectations of what you would like to get out of the USSES Externship
  3) Personal and professional goals
  4) Disclosure and explanation of any disabilities and/or health concerns (this will be kept confidential)
  5) Courses and/or experiences that you feel qualify you or have prepared you for this experience
  6) How do you plan to use the skills/knowledge you gain at the USSES in the future

All qualifying documents should be submitted to:

University of Idaho
U.S. Sheep Experiment Station
Veterinary Student Externship Administrator
19 Office Loop
Dubois, Idaho 83423-5032

Phone: 208-374-5364
Fax: 208-374-5582
ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

• All tasks will be performed under the supervision and guidance of the Staff Veterinarian
• Must be able to follow and respect chain of command
• Restrain, assess, diagnose, treat and follow-up all animal health concerns at facility both medically and surgically (including but not limited to dystocia, prolapses, respiratory disease, eye problems, lameness)
• Conduct physical exams and annual vaccines on all working horses and dogs at the facility
• Conduct humane euthanasia, postmortem exams and analyses
• Provide husbandry and nutritional care of all orphan lambs
• Maintain cleanliness and organization of Dorm House, Orphan Barn and Work Shed
• Willingly work 10-12+ hour days and provide on call services all other hours (24/7)
• Provide practical medical care with respect to current research studies and production/heard health mindset
• Perform other duties as assigned

REQUIRED SKILLS:

• Veterinary Student in good standing
• Strong organizational skills with ability to multi-task
• Independent decision making/problem solving ability
• Ability to work a flexible schedule (full days 7d/wk, and on call 24/7)
• Ability to work in extreme conditions (snow, rain, mud, wind, cold)
• Must have team mentality to successfully accomplish tasks
• Ability to communicate well with colleagues and co-workers
• Ability to plan and organize work in an efficient, practical and cost-effective manner
• Ability to develop and maintain cooperate working relationships with all USSES team members
• Must be willing to adhere to standard operating procedures, including but not limited to research, physical safety, biosecurity and federal government protocols
• Understanding of food/production medicine (herd health approach to medicine)
• Understand and respect the use of animals used in research
• Ability to bend, crouch, walk long distances, be on feet majority of day, climb in and out of pens, lift and carry up to 40 lbs, herd animals and perform physical tasks related to dystocia, manual labor and herd health treatments
U.S. SHEEP EXPERIMENT STATION/UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

STUDENT AGREEMENT FORM

The following agreement is made to provide a special educational experience between the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station/University of Idaho/______________, and the student.

(College or University)

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Student_________________________________________________________Major___________________________________________

Campus Department Supervisor___________________________________________________________________________________________

Campus Address_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

(Street)    (City)  (State)  (Zip)

Campus Phone No.____________________________________________________

I have read, understand and am capable of the list of “REQUIRED SKILLS” and “ESSENTIAL DUTIES”.

I am an Untied States Citizen.

I do have disabilities and/or health concerns that may inhibit my ability to perform essential duties.

YES_________ NO_______ (If “YES”, please explain in the letter of intent).

Housing and facilities for meal preparation will be provided. ** The student will be required to pay a small housing fee, approximately $4.00/day. ** There will be a stipend of $16.00/day to help offset travel/food costs. Weekends, night shifts and irregular hours are encountered.

** Due to Zoonotic Diseases, you are not allowed to come for an externship if you are pregnant
This agreement can be terminated at anytime by mutual consent of the USSES/UI, the advisor and the student. We agree to previously stated guidelines.

Date:_________________________  Program to begin_____________________________terminating______________________________
       (date of application)    (mm/day/yr)          (mm/day/yr)

*Student (Sign)_________________________________________________________________(print)_____________________________________________________________________

Student Address:__________________________________________________________________________________________________
   (mailing address)

Student Phone:_____________________________________________    Email Address:____________________________________________

*Participating College Department Representative

(Campus Advisor – sign)_________________________________ (print)_______________________________________

USSES/UI Administration – sign_________________________ Title or Position ________________________________

• Copies of this agreement will be made by the USSES/UI Administration and returned to student.
HOUSING

Students interning at the station will be provided housing in a 6-bedroom dorm. All the bedrooms are upstairs. Bedrooms sleep 1-2 people and you will need to bring your own sheets, blankets or sleeping bag and pillows. If space is available each student is given their own room. The downstairs consists of a living room, kitchen and restrooms for men and women. Kitchen/cooking utensils are provided. There are also two refrigerators and a microwave provided. The living room consists of a couch and chairs. Internet service is provided in the dorm. If you have a vehicle, limited groceries can be purchased in Dubois at the Phillips 66 station, but they do not carry fresh meat. The best place to shop is in Idaho Falls, which is about an hour from the station. Groceries should be picked up on the day of your arrival in Idaho Falls, Idaho for your whole two week stay. All non-permanent employees have access to a washer and dryer; you will need to provide your own laundry soap.

TRAVEL

You need to arrive on the Sunday before your rotation starts on Monday.

For those flying into Salt Lake City or Idaho Falls, you will be picked up and taken for groceries before traveling to the Sheep Station (55 miles).

Some students prefer to drive others fly (let us know your travel plans by early March).

Suggestions for air travel:
- Fly into Idaho Falls, Idaho or
- Fly to Salt Lake City, Utah and then take a shuttle to Idaho Falls, Idaho (# listed below)
- You will need to plan your return flight on the Saturday of your last week here. We will take you back to Idaho Falls on that Saturday.

Shuttles:
SALT LAKE EXPRESS: 800-356-9796   www.SaltLakeExpress.com
Approximately $50.00/each way.

STUDENT NEEDS

- Warm clothes, boots, and coveralls.
- Bedding or sleeping bag and pillow.
- Towels (bath and kitchen).
- Toiletry items.
- Soap (bath, kitchen and laundry).
- Glasses to protect eyes from dust and sun
- Pets (dogs, cats, horses, etc.) are not allowed.
- Friends/family or anyone not accepted into the externship program are not allowed at facility.

AVAILABLE

- Cooking utensils, pots/pans
- Cook Stove/oven
- Microwave
- Ethernet cable for internet access
- Dormitory – bedrooms, community kitchen and bath.
- Clothes washer & dryer
- Grocery store – located 6 miles away. Recommend purchasing enough food for the full two week stay at initial arrival