



PhD Assistantship – Natural Resources

(Program: Ecology, Management, and Restoration of Rangelands)

VIRTUAL FENCING & RANGELAND LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

Description:

Recent advances in virtual fencing (VF) technology are creating new opportunities to transform grazing management and livestock production systems across the western United States. We seek a highly motivated PhD student to contribute to the University of Arizona's virtual fence research initiative focusing on animal welfare. The successful candidate will lead research looking at seasonal and reproductive-stage differences in grazing behavior, as well as cattle stress and welfare responses associated with interactions with the Halter virtual fencing system in Arizona. This knowledge generated will inform best practices for VF adoption by beef cattle producers in the western U.S.

The student will be advised by Flavie Audoin and will be enrolled in the Ecology, Management, and Restoration of Rangelands program within the School of Natural Resources & the Environment (<https://snre.arizona.edu/>).

Required Qualifications:

- Hold a MS degree in animal sciences, natural resources, or related field.
- Interest in beef cattle physiology, extensive grazing systems, rangeland ecology, animal behavior, animal welfare, or precision livestock technologies.
- Demonstrated diligence and strong work ethic.
- Ability to work independently and collectively as part of an interdisciplinary team.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with statistical software and analysis as well as data management.
- Large livestock animal experience and laboratory training.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.

Salary & Benefits:

Academic and summer compensation available for 5 years [combination of RA and TAships ~ \$30K]
Health insurance, ERE and tuition are provided.

Application Instructions:

- 1- A cover letter.
- 2- Curriculum Vitae / Resume.
- 3- Unofficial or official university transcripts.
- 4- Contact information for 3 references.

Contact information:

Flavie Audoin
fauoin@arizona.edu

Please, submit your application by April 15th 2026 for full consideration.

Target start date is for Summer/Fall 2026. Feel free to email Flavie with any questions about the project.