OPEN POSITION

Ph.D. assistantship in adaptive grazing systems ecology
Salary: $30,000 + tuition, fees, and health insurance
Anticipated Start Date: Summer or Fall 2024
(applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is identified)
Offered by: Texas A&M University, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.
Research Fields: Grazing management, soil science, wildlife ecology

DESCRIPTION

The Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management is seeking a dynamic and highly motivated individual with a strong work ethic to investigate the ecosystem impacts of adaptively managed grazing on Conservation Reserve Program lands in the Texas High Plains. Research will be conducted at the intersection of grazing management, soil health, and wildlife conservation. The project will involve working directly with producers to develop grazing management plans, conducting ranch-scale soil and vegetation sampling, processing and analysis, and monitoring of grassland birds.

The successful candidate will join the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management (RWFM) at Texas A&M University under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Goodwin, (Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management and RWFM) working in collaboration with Dr. Katie Lewis (Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Soil and Crop Sciences), and Dr. Stephen Webb, (Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute and RWFM). The successful candidate will complete course work on the main campus in College Station and conduct field work in the Texas High Plains. The selected student will be expected to present research at scientific conferences and publish their work in peer-reviewed journals.

Texas A&M University's Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management (CGRM) aims to safeguard the ecologic and economic resiliency of grazingland resources and ranching operations with a vision to serve as a national and international leader in producer-directed, applied grazingland and ranch management research, outreach, and industry engagement. CGRM develops and supports interdisciplinary collaborations to address critical needs in ranch profitability, grazingland management, and animal health and wellness to achieve three overarching goals: enhance operational resiliency, strengthen enterprise sustainability, and foster the future of the industry.

The Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management (RWFM) is home to more than 600 students led by 35+ faculty and staff. The goals of RWFM are to generate sound scientific research, facilitate meaningful science-based discussions, and train students to the highest caliber. The department's efforts serve to realize the Land-grant mission through three focus areas—teaching, research, and extension.

Texas A&M opened its doors in 1876 as the state's first public institution of higher learning. Texas A&M University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication, and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields. Its mission of providing the highest quality undergraduate and graduate programs is inseparable from its mission of developing new

understandings through research and creativity. It prepares students to assume roles in leadership and service to society. It welcomes and seeks to serve people of all racial, ethnic, and geographic groups as it addresses the needs of an increasingly diverse population and global economy. Texas A&M's triple designation as a Land, Sea, and Space-Grant institution reflects the broad scope of its research endeavors.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
- M.S. in rangeland management, wildlife ecology, soil science, natural resources, or closely related field
- GPA of ≥3.0
- Basic GIS and programming skills
- Knowledge or experience planning, coordinating, and conducting field activities
- Strong work ethic and self-motivated
- Willingness and desire to work in a remote location, sometimes under adverse conditions (hot, humid, biting/stinging insects), on working ranches with livestock operations
- Valid U.S. driver's license

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS
- Experience with vegetation, soil, and/or wildlife survey techniques
- Proficiency with GIS and programming (such as R) and working with large datasets
- Experience or working knowledge of adaptive grazing management strategies
- Excellent oral communication and technical writing skills
- Publishing experience and grantsmanship

HOW TO APPLY
Applicants should email:
1. A statement of interest (2 pages maximum)
2. Undergraduate and graduate transcripts (unofficial versions accepted)
3. A resume or CV, and
4. Names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for three references

To: Dr. Jeff Goodwin at jeff.goodwin@ag.tamu.edu with the subject line 'CGRM PhD Position'

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Contact Dr. Goodwin (jeff.goodwin@ag.tamu.edu) for more information.