

## 13 – Innovative Production Practices Outreach Materials 2019 Extension Internship Proposal

### Research and Extension Mentors

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**Region:** Peaks and Plains Region—Eastern Colorado

### Internship goals, scope and objectives:

This internship will support and expand outreach efforts for two ongoing projects funded by USDA and NRCS focused on improving resource conservation within cropping systems of the High Plains region. The internship **Goal** is to develop case study video and written materials of innovative irrigated and dryland producers and practices. **Scope:** The intern will interview and collect video from a minimum of 4 irrigated producers who have successfully adopted water conservation practices and 4 dryland producers who having successfully integrated cover crops into their operations. The intern will also help with outreach and communications support and field work as needed working in partnership with the extension mentors. The **Objective** is to build an online set of resources that demonstrate how producers have successfully adopted the

innovative practices. The case studies will be linked to field-based data collected through the two associated projects.

### **Student learning outcomes**

The intern will gain an understanding of varied production systems across the High Plains. The intern will gain communications, writing, videography and video editing skills, including the challenges of collecting quality video and audio in an outdoor environment. The intern will have the opportunity to attend regional field days. By working in partnership with the extension mentors, the intern will also gain a broader understanding of how extension works through helping with other communications and field work as needed throughout the summer.

### **Ongoing collaborations**

The mentors of this project currently collaborate on field-based research evaluating grazed cover crop systems within dryland wheat production systems (Meyer and Schipanski) and a regional project evaluating strategies for groundwater conservation (Schneekloth and Schipanski). This internship will build on these collaborations, but also seeks to bridge projects since both teams have identified the need to develop case studies of innovative producers.

### **Support of stakeholder needs**

The two projects that this intern will support have actively engaged producer teams that advise the research. Both groups of producer advisors have said that case studies are often the best way to reach producers who are considering adopting conservation practices. In particular, the producers involved in the grazed cover crop project requested that an online resource be developed that identifies where producers have been successfully adopting cover crops so that they can be a local resource to others in their area. The larger project has also received supported from the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation.

### **Travel funds**

Due to the mileage that will be required to carry out the interviews, the intern will have funds available for travel. The student will need to be based in Washington or Kit Carson County for the time period of the internship. Housing assistance will not be provided.