

CSU Extension Internship Application

College of Ag Sciences Faculty

- 1. Ryan D. Rhoades**
Associate Professor-Beef Extension Specialist
Department of Animal Science
Ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu
970-491-2814
- 2. Internship Region:** Statewide
- 3. Internship Goals:** A statewide collaborative partnership in extension program (Ranch Benchmarking) involving campus faculty, extension personnel, cattlemen's associations, and producers is being developed. This program was determined a priority by the CSU Livestock & Range PRU. The program will offer a unique opportunity for cow-calf producers in Colorado to reduce their cost of production and improve their production and marketing efficiency. Participant ranches will complete an in-depth financial, production, and management analysis of their cowherd, with the help of CSU faculty and trained-mentored extension personnel, using a standardized methodology. Ranches (60) will vary in size, segment, and location throughout the state. Campus, regional, and area extension personnel will work with student intern to conduct select ranch visits, collect production and financial information, and perform applied research analyses of animal performance and financial inputs and outputs of the operation.
- 4. Internship Learning Outcomes:** The student intern will **1)** be exposed to a wide variety of ranch management and marketing systems; **2)** learn to obtain, analyze, and evaluate ranch financial and performance information; and **3)** gain experience in developing producer relationships under the guidance of livestock and range specialists.
- 5. Collaboration:** This project is in collaboration with Colorado Cattlemen's Association and UNL. Extension agents (12) are being recruited statewide to become trained ranch management advisors to assist producers at the local level. Agents would assist with ranch recruitment, site visits, and producer consulting efforts.
- 6. Stakeholder Need:** Historically, the level of net returns in the cow-calf business have been relatively low. In the 2018 Colorado Beef Producer Needs Assessment nearly 70% of producers indicated their financial situation (cash flow or cost of production) as the biggest barrier to success. Needs Assessment results conclude that ranch financial and business management is the #1 priority.
- 7. Other Funds:** This project is also supported by a recently acquired USDA-NIFA grant. Some funds for intern travel are available.