

## 8. **T.R.A.C. – Total Ranch Analysis for Colorado**

Mentors: [Ryan D. Rhoades](#), [Logan Hoffman](#), [Bruce Fickenscher](#), [Travis Taylor](#), [Todd Hagenbuch](#)

Location: Fort Collins with statewide ranch visits

### 1. **Mentor Team:**

[Ryan D. Rhoades](#)- Associate Professor-Beef Extension Specialist- Department of Animal Science [Ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu](mailto:Ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu)/970-491-2814

[Logan Hoffman](#)- Beef Extension Associate (Sterling, CO)

[Bruce Fickenscher](#)- Southeast Area Director (Ordway, CO)

[Travis Taylor](#)- Golden Plains Area Livestock (Wray, CO)

[Todd Hagenbuch](#)- Routt County Director (Steamboat Springs, CO)

2. **Internship Region:** This internship is based on campus at CSU, but the intern will have the opportunity to work statewide by participating in ranch visits and engaged/applied field research at multiple locations.

3. **Internship Goals:** T.R.A.C. - Total Ranch Analysis for Colorado is a statewide collaborative partnership in extension program involving campus faculty, extension personnel, cattlemen's associations, and beef producers. The program offers a unique opportunity for cow-calf producers to reduce their cost of production and improve their production and marketing efficiency. Participant ranches 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 will vary in size, segment, and location throughout the state. Campus, regional, and area extension personnel will work with student intern to conduct 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:** T.R.A.C. is funded by USDA-NIFA and supported by faculty and extension personnel in the Department of Animal Sciences, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, CSU Extension, and College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. The program connects to the Livestock and Range PRU and Agriculture and Business Managements team of specialists.

6. **Stakeholder Need:** Historically, 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 as the biggest barrier to success. Needs Assessment results also conclude that financial and business management is the #1 priority among ranchers. This program was determined a top priority by the CSU Livestock & Range PRU.

7. **Experience with Mentorship:** Mentor have previous experience advising student clubs, internships, and graduate students. This internship will use a guided approach where the intern is expected to contribute to project goals, but with a focus on how that role will lead to professional growth and development specific to the intern's interests.

8. **Other Funds:** Intern will receive a stipend through the internship program. No other financial assistance will be provided. Some limited funds to reimburse internship-related travel expenses are available.