24 – Ranch Assessment and Risk Analysis

This internship provides the student opportunities to work with professionals with whom they will partner in their professional lives (veterinarians outside of the private practice realm, county extension agents, brand inspectors, emergency managers and ranchers) as well as participate in community based research efforts. Below is a description of the internship:

Mentor: Dr. Frank Garry (Clinical Science), Drs. Ryan Rhoades and Jason Ahola (Animal Science), and Dr. Dan Mooney (DARE)

Range cow/Ranch metrics: 1 student

- The Livestock and Range group of Colorado State Extension is developing a ranch evaluation system to help producers compare metrics to enhance their profitability and sustainability. The system includes metrics of animal health and production performance plus financial information to produce a ranch assessment that informs risk analysis and improves management decisions. This is a longitudinal study that will continue for at least 3 years to accumulate information from ranches with different descriptors of size and location across the state.
- In 2019 the Extension agents will be enrolling cooperating ranches to collect ranch data. The agents will be working with a team of campus-based specialists, including Drs. Frank Garry, Ryan Rhoades, Jason Ahola, and Dan Mooney, who will oversee and coordinate this USDA funded project.
- The student intern supervised by Dr. Frank Garry will work with extension personnel to collect information, enter data and perform spreadsheet analyses of animal performance, financial inputs and outputs of the operation. This internship will provide the student with insight into ranch management as it relates to health and performance of cattle as well as financial returns for the ranch.
- The student will present a poster at the annual Extension Forum that compares metrics for risk analysis and management of ranch resiliency in the face of changing environmental conditions and cattle pricing cycles.