

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Applied Forage Management Systems and Agricultural Stewardship</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	10 weeks (May – August 2022, depending on the student’s academic schedule)
<b>Compensation:</b>	\$4,000 stipend (minus taxes), plus job-related travel reimbursement
<b>Minimum age:</b>	18
<b>Minimum requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university in a course of study relevant to the mission of Extension.</li> <li>• Completed sophomore year prior to the start of the program.</li> <li>• NOT eligible to graduate prior to December 2022.</li> <li>• Possess a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale at the time of application (exceptions will be considered with substantial justification).</li> <li>• U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident.</li> <li>• Willing to travel (regionally and possibly internationally) and occasionally work flexible hours outside of a traditional M-F, 8-5 schedule.</li> <li>• Valid driver’s license and reliable personal vehicle.</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred qualifications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience working with volunteers and youth.</li> <li>• Familiarity with animal and forage production environments.</li> <li>• Good writing and communication skills.</li> <li>• Self-motivated learner that can coordinate and implement projects.</li> <li>• Ability to analyze and synthesize scientific information.</li> <li>• Committed to working with diverse clientele and colleagues.</li> <li>• Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.</li> <li>• Basic knowledge and skill of operating farm equipment.</li> <li>• Good organization and planning skills and be able to demonstrate effective project coordination, facilitation, and implementation based on past work or school experiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to occasionally lift more than 50 pounds.</li> <li>• Be able to work in areas with dust particles.</li> <li>• Be able to work with livestock (e.g., cattle).</li> <li>• Be able to stand on your feet for extended periods of time.</li> <li>• Be able to work under summer hot and humid conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Apprenticeship Description:</b>	<p>Are you interested in agriculture, animal production, or applied scientific research? If so, then this unique experience will provide you with the opportunity to conduct, analyze, and present applied agricultural research, develop Extension materials, and become familiar with forage production and grazing management in the southern USA through meetings and discussions with researchers and industry representatives. The apprentice selected for this program will walk away with a set of tangible skills that employers and graduate schools’ value. Specifically, the apprentice will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a research project to investigate the impact of establishing of forage crops small plots and grazing paddocks.</li> <li>• Develop an academic poster to be presented at a Producer Advisory Meeting, the MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, and a regional forage meeting such as Southern Pasture Forage Conference or the American Society of Agronomy Southern Branch.</li> <li>• Present the work in person or virtually during the Warm-season Forage Field Day, webinars, or social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.</li> <li>• Participate in farm-visits and develop producer’s forage management recommendations.</li> <li>• Shadow Agriculture and Natural Resource agents across the state to learn about regional and county level extension programs as well as work with another forage/livestock scientist.</li> <li>• Learn and implement technologies used in forage research and producer assessment such as NIRS, NDVI, UAV, phone applications, etc.</li> <li>• Maintain a reflection journal outlining apprenticeship experiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Information:</b>	<p>This apprenticeship is based in Starkville, MS. Housing is not provided. However, program administrators may be able to assist you in finding an affordable place to live.</p> <p>For specific questions about this undergraduate apprenticeship opportunity, please contact:  <b>Dr. Rocky Lemus</b>, Professor and Extension Forage Specialist  Department of Plant and Soil Sciences  Phone: (662) 325-7718 or <a href="mailto:Rocky.Lemus@msstate.edu">Rocky.Lemus@msstate.edu</a></p>
<b>Application Process:</b>	<a href="#">Online application</a> due by <b>11:59 PM on February 14, 2022.</b>