



PhD student in Beef Bull Management
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

Project Description: The successful candidate will conduct research to better understand beef bull management in Alberta and methods to predict health and sire capacity using remote monitoring technology. This project will survey producers on bull management practices and disease and injury incidence to be used to establish traits and expectations for seedstock and commercial producers, identify areas for improvement in management practices, and identify areas of future research. Few studies have investigated bull behaviour or social interactions under commercial ranch conditions and their effect on bull health and fertility. Early detection of disease or injury is also important for maintaining animal health, welfare, and to decrease losses in production. Therefore, this project will use remote monitoring devices to monitor bull location, activity, and proximity to associate these behaviours with bull injury or illness, and sire capacity. The candidate will be co-supervised by Dr. Jennifer Pearson, a veterinarian and theriogenologist, whose research focuses on peri-partum diseases, neonatal care, and bull health and fertility, and Dr. Ed Pajor, an expert in animal behaviour and welfare whose current research focuses on beef cattle welfare.

Qualifications: Candidates should have a Master of Science degree in animal science or agriculture, or a professional degree in veterinary medicine. The successful candidate will have demonstrated academic performance in their undergraduate program and a strong aptitude for communication. Ability to work independently with good communication (oral and written) skills in English is needed. Experience with beef cattle handling and the cow-calf industry is essential or the ability and interest to learn. A current and valid driver's license is required.

Salary: Candidates must be academically competitive and will be expected to apply for external funding. Minimum stipend is \$25,000/yr. For outstanding students, internal top- up award opportunities are available on a competitive basis.

Start Date: The position would start September 2021 with funding for 4 years.

Application Interest: For additional information on graduate student application process can be found on the UCVM Graduate Studies website (www.vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/graduate-students). Interested candidates should send by email (jennifer.pearson@ucalgary.ca) a current curriculum vitae, a scanned copy of transcript or listing of course grades, names and contact information for two references, and a cover letter describing your interest in the project.

UCVM is a dynamic veterinary faculty in Western Canada that is committed to becoming a world leader in the training of animal health researchers and postgraduate veterinarians. Descriptions of the Faculty and its departments can be found on the UCVM website (www.vet.ucalgary.ca). Calgary is also located close to the Rocky Mountains and Banff National Park and offers ample opportunities for outdoor activities in winter and summer.

Dr. Jennifer M. Pearson, DVM DACT PhD
Assistant Professor, Bovine Health Management, WA Ranches

Dr. Ed Pajor MSc PhD
Director of WA Ranches, Anderson-Chisholm Chair in Animal Care and Welfare,
Professor of Animal Behaviour and Welfare