Scholarships and Fellowships

Supporting the Nancy Cameron Chair in Animal and Range Sciences

MONTANA STOCKGROWERS FELLOWSHIP
$1,000,000 ENDOWED FUND

The Montana Stockgrowers Fellowship Fund is a permanent endowment newly established to support graduate students in Montana State University’s Animal and Range Sciences Department studying under the Nancy Cameron Endowed Chair. Ms. Cameron recently gifted $2 million to the MSU Alumni Foundation to create the research and teaching faculty position.

The Montana Stockgrowers Association’s (MSGA) goal for the endowed fund is to raise $1 million, generating investment-derived income of $40,000 annually. It is anticipated that this revenue stream would provide funding for two fellowships, which would be in addition to those funded by the College of Agriculture. The college’s leadership is committed to expanding graduate research and education in Animal and Range Sciences.

These Animal and Range Sciences fellowships will fuel dynamic agricultural research by MSU graduate students, who will be conducting industry driven projects designed to directly benefit the Montana livestock industry.

CULTIVATING COLLABORATION AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

The total value of 2013 production for Montana cattle and calves was $1.36 billion and has topped the $1 billion mark in eight of the past ten years. Research and development programs with a beef cattle focus are vital to our state economy. Montana State’s College of Agriculture is uniquely situated to be the hub of this focused research.

MSU’s College of Agriculture already has deep ties to the ranching and farming communities around the state and in the region. The college has a reputation for pursuing innovative research that is application-oriented for the challenges that Montana’s agricultural communities face.

In fulfilling his/her role, the chair will support and mentor research efforts and educational programs that foster greater collaboration among all industry stakeholders. This cooperative approach will ensure the vitality of livestock production in Montana and the region.

A sustained robust graduate program with endowed resources for fellowships is a critical component in expanding research and development under the chair.
THE CHALLENGE

In today's world, federal funding for university-based agricultural research continues to shrink, as do other public resources for higher education. Therefore, private philanthropy for higher education has become increasingly vital to maintain cutting-edge programs at the university level. Endowed funds such as the MSGA Fellowship Fund ensure the longevity of the thriving academic environment needed to make significant contributions that will continue to positively impact the dominant agricultural economy of our state.

Applied research projects within animal and range sciences typically cost $60,000, which includes graduate student stipends, materials and equipment, data collection, travel and publishing costs. When research requires molecular laboratory analysis, costs can exceed $125,000 for one project.

Applied research projects that advance the overall knowledge base within animal and range sciences through livestock physiology, genetics, reproductive health and nutrition are a necessity, not a luxury. That is why the MSGA feel this Fellowship Fund is vital to Montana’s beef cattle industry.

ADVANCING RELEVANT RESEARCH

The MSGA Fellowship Fund is a fundraising partnership between the MSU Alumni Foundation and the Montana Stockgrowers Association Research, Education and Endowment Foundation. This private support will give the MSU Animal and Range Sciences Department the financial strength and flexibility to keep Montana’s agricultural economy vital and competitive on a national and international level.