

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### Ruminant Livestock Production Specialist

**POSITION:** Ruminant Livestock Production

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** This is a 30% research and 70% extension, full-time (12 month) non-tenure track appointment at the Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SPAREC) (<http://www.vaes.vt.edu/blackstone>) in Blackstone. The incumbent will report directly to the Director of SPAREC. Primary responsibilities of the position are to develop a productive extension/research program for critical issues in ruminant (beef, dairy, sheep, goats) livestock production systems. Potential program areas should focus on animal components of profitable, sustainable forage-livestock systems. These areas may include but are not limited to: interactions between reproduction, physiology, and/or nutrition and various forage systems, implementation of animal management schemes which enhance efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of forage-livestock systems, multi-species grazing, and evaluation of system components for locally-produced animal products. All research would target the needs of Virginia livestock and forage producers particularly in the Southern Piedmont Region. This region of Virginia is marked by mild winters and hot and humid summers with periods of limited rainfall and high rates of evapotranspiration. The candidate is expected to collaborate with faculty on- and off-campus and livestock industry representatives. The successful candidate will work as a member of an interdisciplinary team that includes forage agronomists, economists, foresters, and other animal scientists and specialists to address forage-livestock issues from a systems approach. The successful candidate must secure extramural funding; publish in peer-reviewed journals; advise graduate students; and develop and deliver effective educational programs to support county-based Extension agents and producers.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A MS degree (PhD preferred) in animal science or related discipline is required with education and/or experience in best management practices for ruminant livestock production, management of intensive grazing systems, and sustainable production systems. Effective communication skills and ability to work within a team environment are essential.

**SALARY:** Salary and fringe benefits are highly competitive with other leading land-grant universities. The position offers laboratory space, greenhouse facilities, and research area in an interdisciplinary environment.

**APPLICATIONS:** Applications will be reviewed by January 25, 2012. Applicants are required to apply online at <http://www.jobs.vt.edu> for posting 0111286 and submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and statement of research interests and extension philosophy as an attachment to the online application. Virginia Tech has a strong commitment to the principle of diversity and, in that spirit, seeks a broad spectrum of candidates including women, people of color, and people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process or needing this material in an alternate format should contact Dr. C.A. Wilkinson at [wilki@vt.edu](mailto:wilki@vt.edu) or 434/292-5331 ext. 221 by the application review date. Virginia Tech is the recipient of the National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award to increase the participation of women in academic science careers.

