POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

TITLE: **Ruminant Livestock Systems Specialist**

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) and Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences are searching for a Ruminant Livestock Systems Specialist. This is a full-time, non-tenure track position with a 75% extension and 25% research appointment located at the Southern Piedmont AREC in Blackstone, VA. The successful candidate will have a strong background in ruminant livestock production and nutrition in pasture based systems. Qualified individuals are expected to develop a highly visible extension program that integrates nutrition, forage production and utilization, livestock management, economics, and other disciplines to solve problems and alleviate limitations within ruminant livestock production systems in Virginia and the region. Additionally, the successful candidate is expected to conduct an applied research program and actively engage in collaborative research efforts with other faculty at Virginia Tech and other institutions to compliment extension programs. Topics to be addressed with an integrated extension and research program may include, but are not limited to: tall fescue toxicosis, extended grazing systems, nutrient management, pasture based weaning and backgrounding systems, metagenomics of rumen microbial processes, and soil-plant-animal relationships. The candidate will have access to grazing research facilities located at the Southern Piedmont AREC, campus (Blacksburg), the Shenandoah Valley AREC (Raphine), and the Southwest Virginia AREC located at Glade Springs. The individual in this position is expected to collaborate with on- and off-campus faculty on both extension programming and research. The procurement of extramural funds to support an integrated extension and research program will be required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are required, and the candidate is expected to establish and maintain close working relationships with county extension agents, regional extension specialists, industry, and organizations and agencies engaged with the Virginia forage-livestock industry. The development of a focused and cohesive extension program that addresses the needs of livestock producers in Virginia and supports the publication of peer reviewed extension materials, popular press articles, and refereed scientific articles to support this program is required. The successful candidate is also expected to serve on graduate student committees as appropriate.

QUALIFICATIONS: A master's degree in animal science, agronomy, veterinary science or related discipline, and experience with ruminant livestock management systems in the United States is required. The successful candidate must have a strong background in ruminant livestock production and nutrition and evidence of scholarly extension and research output. The candidate must exhibit an ability to develop strong and focused integrated extension and research programs, and to obtain extramural funding to support these programs. It is expected that these activities will result in local, state, regional, and national recognition.

SALARY: The position is a full-time appointment with salary commensurate with education and experience. Virginia Tech offers a comprehensive benefits package.

Please apply at www.jobs.vt.edu , posting AP0150349 , and attach the following documents: cover letter, curriculum vitae, copy of transcript, statement of extension philosophy and research interests, and list of three references. Initial review of applications will start on January 25, 2016 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. The position will start in July 2016, however

an earlier stating date is negotiable. 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 or 434/292-5331 ext. 221 by the application review date.

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. Virginia Tech has been the recipient of the National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award to increase the participation of women in academic science careers.

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status or otherwise discriminate against employees or applicants who inquire about, discuss, or disclose their compensation or the compensation of other employees, or applicants or any other basis protected by law.