GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
(Range and Forage Sciences)

The research will be conducted at the Barta Brothers Ranch, one of UNL’s research ranches located in the Sandhills. The Barta Brothers Ranch is a 5,000-acre facility and is about 260 miles northwest of Lincoln in the eastern Sandhills. The objectives of the research will be to determine the effect of stocking density and grazing duration on aboveground plant production, botanical composition, forage utilization, animal performance, and soil properties of upland range and subirrigated meadow. This research has grown from other long-term grazing studies at the Barta Brothers Ranch and regional interest in management intensive grazing, ultrahigh stocking density, and sustainable production of ecosystem services. The student will complete the last two years of an eight year project, analyze data, and write research and extension publications. This research is fully funded by USDA and University of Nebraska Foundation grants. The graduate student will live in modern housing on site during the summer field season (May-August) and will be in Lincoln at the UNL campus during the academic year. The student will have excellent opportunities to work with other students and research scientists in the areas of grassland ecology, revegetation, animal nutrition, and wildlife management and ecology. Applicants should have a strong background in grassland ecology, grazing management, and field research and must meet the admission requirements of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Interested applicants should contact Dr. Walt Schacht, wschacht@unl.edu, 402-472-0205, or Dr. Jerry Volesky, jvolesky@unl.edu, 308-696-6710 for more information.

Qualifications: B.S. or M.S. degree with appropriate academic credentials. The qualifying degree must be completed before the GRA start date.

Current Stipend: Graduate Research Assistantship Stipend:
- M.S. Student: Annual Basis - $23,400  Monthly Basis - $1,950
- Ph.D. Student: Annual Basis - $25,200  Monthly Basis - $2,100

Tuition Waiver: A tuition waiver of up to 12 credit hours per semester and 12 credit hours during summer sessions is provided with the GRA.

Health Insurance: Students on assistantships are provided health insurance at a reduced rate.

GRA Availability: January 2016

Application: Formal application (including GRE) for graduate studies is required. Follow the admission instructions at: http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/

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