

27. Ranch Financial Benchmarking and Education

Mentors: [Daniel Mooney](#), [Logan Hoffman](#), [Jenny Beiermann](#)

Location: Fort Collins, CO (with opportunity for travel)

Extension Mentors and Contact Information

Daniel Mooney (Primary) Asst Prof & Extension Economist Agricultural & Resource Economics CSU Main Campus Fort Collins, CO	Jenny Beiermann Agriculture & Business Management Specialist CSU Extension Grand Junction, CO	Logan Hoffman Extension Associate in Beef Systems – Animal Sciences CSU Extension Sterling, CO
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Internship Region. This internship will be based in Larimer County, CO, but the individual selected to fulfill the position will have ample opportunity to work statewide by participating in ranch visits and engaged/applied field research at multiple locations throughout the state including Sterling, CO (Eastern Region) and Grand Junction, CO (Western Region).

Internship Goals, Scope, and Objectives. The intern is expected to contribute to an on-going applied research and extension project related to ranch benchmarking. The overall project goal is to enhance the economic viability and ecological sustainability of ranches in Colorado. The scope of this particular internship is focused on ranch financial analysis and education. Students with a strong background in farm and ranch management are particularly encouraged to apply. Depending on interests and skills, objectives may include: participate in ranch benchmarking visits throughout the state, perform ranch financial analyses using the FINPAK software program (training to be provided), communicate results of the analysis to producer stakeholders, develop tables and visual aids summarizing benchmarking data, develop educational materials that highlight the value of record-keeping and financial management to producers.

Connections to Extension Primary Reporting Units (PRUs) & CSU Faculty Research. The on-going benchmarking project is funded by a USDA-NIFA grant and run by faculty and extension personnel in the Department of Animal Sciences, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, CSU Extension, and College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. In terms of CSU extension, the project connects to the Livestock and Range PRU as well as the Agriculture and Business Management (ABM) team of specialists.

Identified Stakeholder Needs. Financial record-keeping and management is often done late at night, outsourced to a third party, or ignored altogether. It might not even be considered real work or simply left as too complex to understand. Yet, a recent needs assessment for the beef industry in Colorado identified financial and marketing topics as a top priority. The ranch benchmarking program was launched in response to this identified need, with stakeholder education as a focus.

Experience with Mentorship. The primary mentor has previous experience advising student clubs and internships as well as graduate research projects. This internship will use a guided approach where the intern is expected to contribute to project goals, but with a focus on how that role will lead to professional growth and development specific to the intern's interests.

Funding and Assistance. The intern will receive a stipend through the CSU internship program. No other financial assistance will be provided, except for some limited funds to reimburse internship-related travel expenses.