

Cheyenne Star Summers

University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS:** Urbana-Champaign, IL 61801 May 2019–May 2021
Master of Science in Comparative Biosciences
- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS:** Urbana-Champaign, IL 61801 August 2015–May 2019
Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut December 2022 – Present
Research Assistant II

- Facilitates ovine research projects investigating the effects of maternal nutrition on fetal programming
- Experienced in collecting and processing blood samples from cattle and sheep of all ages
- Spearheads lambing processes in research ewes
- Facilitates ovine necropsies and dissections of maternal and fetal tissues
- Mentors undergraduates who assist in the laboratories of Dr. Kristen Govoni, Dr. Sarah Reed, and Dr. Steve Zinn
- Organizes and implements scheduling of all laboratory personnel across experimental responsibilities, including animal care, data collection, and sample processing

University of Illinois Equine Research and Teaching Unit June 2021 – December 2022
Research Specialist in Agriculture

- Managed an AALAC-accredited equine facility
- Responsible for the welfare of all horses housed at the University of Illinois Horse Farm, which includes stallions, broodmares, yearlings, weanlings, and foals
- Experienced in handling stallions and yearlings
- Well-versed in collecting stallions for artificial insemination purposes
- On-call to assist staff with questions or farm-related issues
- Facilitated research between principal investigators and university-owned horses
- Responsible for record-keeping, billing, and compliance with university oversight entities
- Forged and maintained client relationships
- Responsible for parturition and post-foaling care of all mares and foals
- Facilitated communication between veterinarians, farm staff, and horse owners to ensure the welfare of all horses housed at the Horse Farm
- Provided basic veterinary care in emergency and non-emergency situations
- Responsible for hiring and managing a team of student employees and interns
- Implemented a training program for farm staff to learn safe horse handling and basic horse medical care
- Collaborated with faculty on several outreach opportunities including the Academic Quadrathlon, labs for veterinary students, Walking Skeleton Contest, and the Veterinary Medicine CDE for FFA members

- Responsible for preparation, transport, care, and handling of yearling horses at multi-day sales
- Taught and supervised several on-farm animal science classes

Bagchi Lab – Department of Comparative Biosciences

August 2019 – May 2021

Graduate Research Assistant

- Led research trials using gene-edited mouse models of pregnancy
- Developed two separate high-health gene-edited mouse colonies from two founders each
- Performed various analyses including dissection, tissue preparation and sectioning, histology, DNA isolation and PCR
- Mentored new lab members in proper research techniques, including demonstrating methods of ensuring high-quality data and training in both live animal and wet lab assays
- Disseminated research findings via oral presentations in academic settings
- Responsible for managing multiple mouse colonies with specific genetic backgrounds
- Collaborated with other lab groups in accomplishing research objectives

University of Illinois Horse Farm

August 2016 – May 2019

Lead undergraduate employee

- Responsible for management duties in manager’s absence
- Created schedule for and delegated tasks to other students
- Trained undergraduate workers in basic farm tasks, horse handling, and equipment usage
- Administered basic medical care under veterinary direction
- Responsible for foaling in manager’s absence
- Assisted in collecting and processing semen samples from stallions
- Versed in stallion, yearling, foal, and broodmare handling and care

Freedom of Movement Dressage and Eventing

October 2018 – June 2019

Agricultural Caretaker

- Provide daily care for performance and pleasure horses
- Versed in handling horses of various temperaments, such as stallions and ex-racehorses
- Responsible for maintenance chores

University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital

July 2017 – May 2018

Large Animal Clinic Student Caretaker

- Responsible for ensuring biosecurity throughout the clinic
- Sanitized stalls, chutes, and surgery suites in between animals
- Aided in providing general care for university-owned animals

6S Farms

June 2016 – August 2016

Farm Hand

- Provided general care for cows, heifers, calves, and a bull
- Responsible for milking the herd twice each day
- Assisted with sanitizing equipment and maintenance chores

University of Illinois Dairy Farm

January 2016 – May 2016

Academic Hourly

- Responsible for milking and sanitizing equipment
- Provided general care for cows and calves
- Administered mastitis treatment under veterinary direction

TEACHING/OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

ANSC 199 – Foal Watch Instructor

Spring 2022

- Taught students about parturition in mares
- Directed students on how to assist during birth and post-foaling care
- Responsible for providing students with hands-on experience during the foaling process

ANSC 103 – Working with Farm Animals Instructor

Fall 2021/Spring 2022/Fall 2022

- Taught the equine section of the course
- Educated students on safe horse handling
- Provides students with the opportunity to learn basic horse care and maintenance
- Maintains attendance records for each lab section

VM 602, 603, 604- Graduate Histology Teaching Assistant

Fall 2019/2020, Spring 2020/2021

- Aided in administrative tasks, including proctoring exams and handling student concerns or conflicts
- Organized and led several laboratory sections throughout the course
- Responsible for answering student questions, reviewing content, and facilitating discussion

Comparative Biosciences RTG- Secretary

January 2020 – December 2020

- Productive member of the Research Trainee Group
- Organized records of Group activities, including fiscal reports
- Responsible for recording and disseminating minutes of board and monthly meetings

ANSC 101- Contemporary Animal Issues Teaching Assistant

Spring 2019

- Managed students' participation in a 196-seat class
- Assisted students with questions

ANSC 199- Foal Watch Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017/2018/2019

- Organized and scheduled all shifts throughout the semester
- Facilitated student involvement in the foaling process
- Responsible for responding to overnight calls throughout the semester

ANSC 103- Working with Farm Animals Teaching Assistant

Fall 2017/2018

- Responsible for teaching students how to safely handle horses
- Assisted in teaching students about equine production

ANSC 206- Horse Management Teaching Assistant

Fall 2017

- Responsible for teaching students about handling weanling horses
- Ensured student safety when handling horses

University of Illinois- Animal Science Ambassador

Fall 2017 – Spring 2019

- Enthusiastically informed students about opportunities within Animal Sciences
- Guided students in developing academic pathways for themselves
- Served as outreach personnel to potential students