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For more information:

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Dan Scott Ranch
Management Program

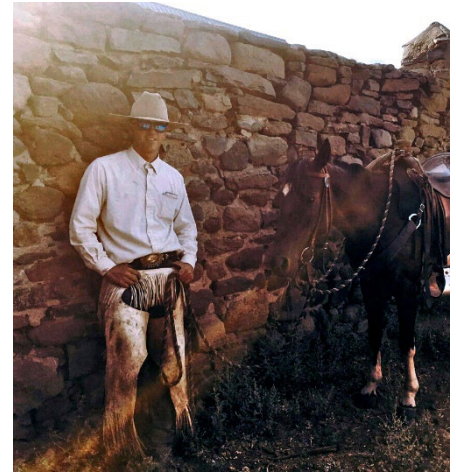
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Ranching Systems Degree Accepts First Student

"Since a young age, I was blessed and lucky to know what I wanted...". In the Spring of 2019, before the Ranching Systems Degree was officially available to students, before the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program was a reality, Tristan Bess began making plans to be part of this new program at Montana State University. Originally from Elk Grove, CA, Tristan was raised around horses and cattle and his parents modeled a strong work ethic and the value of life-long learning. At 17, Tristan left home to work on a large ranch in Nevada and knew with certainty that ranching held his future. Since then, Tristan has worked for ranches in Oregon and Nevada and combines his livestock experience with a humble, eager to learn attitude that makes him an excellent student for the program. Tristan transitioned from pursuing a degree in Natural Resources Rangeland Ecology to Ranching Systems. Ranching Systems is a limited admission program that requires students to apply for admission during their sophomore year. Bess submitted his lengthy application and following an interview with members of the steering committee was accepted as the first student in the program. "The true genius of the Ranching Systems degree is that it is holistic; much like a ranch management job, developing knowledge in rangeland ecology, animal science, and agriculture business", Tristan wrote in his application. There are numerous challenges facing the ranching industry,



Tristan Bess, first student accepted into the Ranching Systems Degree Program at MSU.

and Tristan realizes the need for a keen mind coupled with a strong knowledge base in these disciplines to successfully perform as a ranch manager. When asked the most important characteristics of a ranch manager, Tristan replied "Communication, organization, integrity and leadership." He elaborates that these skills are *"rather easy to talk about, but require a conscious and disciplined mind to enact and evaluate"*. "This self-awareness, commitment to hard work and understanding of the attributes needed in this industry, is what will make Tristan an exceptional contribution to the ranching industry upon graduation" says Dr. Rachel Frost, Program Lead for the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program (DSRMP). Tristan will start an internship with a partner ranch in May of 2020.

<http://animalrange.montana.edu/danscottmanagementprogram.html>

Dan Scott Ranch Management Outreach Program:

Seminar Series on Relevant Topics

Photo courtesy of MT DNRC

Today's ranch managers must know how to manage employees, interpret policy and effectively comment on an environmental impact statement as much as they know how to select a replacement heifer or design a grazing system. The seminar series will provide leadership, personnel management, and natural resource law and policy skills not taught in the required courses of the ranching systems degree. Seminars will be held monthly September through May (excluding December) – for a total of 8 seminars / year. Seminar series beginning in odd years will focus on professional development, and even years will focus on natural resource issues. Seminars will be open to students from other disciplines, ranching professionals, and the community.

Want to receive
notifications of
upcoming symposia
and seminars?

Email
frost@montana.edu

The health and safety of our students and partners is paramount. While we are optimistic that schedules can resume soon, we will follow all MSU health and safety guidelines during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Natural Resource & Policy Seminar Series *Fall 2020*

- Water law in Montana, and the West
- Wildfire and fuels management on grazing lands
- Conservation Easements / Grass banking
- BLM, Forest Service, state and other special government grazing leases
 - Section 8 mediation process
- The NEPA process and submitting effective public comments
- The Endangered Species Act
- Noxious weed law / invasive species
- Natural resource planning and conservation programs

Professional Development Seminar Series *Spring 2021*

- Effective communication within the ranch hierarchy
- Conflict resolution and facilitation
- Systems thinking – understanding and applying the process to a ranch
- Human resource issues - recruiting and training good employees
- Ethics and integrity in agriculture
- Media and local community relations
- Leadership for today's ranch managers
- Weathering a transition in ownership

Dan Scott Ranch Management Outreach Program:

Production and Human Resource Symposia

Photo courtesy of MT DNRC

Each Spring, the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program will host a Production / Management Symposia somewhere in the state focusing on a livestock production or land management topic of interest. Each Fall, the DSRMP will host a symposium focused on the management of human resources in the ranching industry. Seminars are open to the public, will feature top-notch speakers and experts in the topic of discussion. Plenty of networking opportunities and time for discussion will be built into the symposia.

2020 Symposia Schedule

2020 Spring Production / Management Symposium – **POSTPONED**

“Calving Season – Key to Ranch Profitability”

- *Featuring Burke Teichert*
- *Tour of MSU Red Bluff Research Ranch*
- *Producer panel on marketing strategies, challenges and opportunities of calving at different seasons.*



Program will be duplicated at a later date when conditions are safe. Stay healthy!

Human Resources and Communication Symposium – **Date & Location TBD**

- *Featuring Bob Milligan, Senior Consultant Dairy Strategies LLC.*
- *Recruiting, hiring and retaining ranch employees*
- *Becoming a great supervisor*



Full-day program open to the public

Stay tuned for dates and details on the upcoming events.

Did someone forward you this email?

Get on our mailing list: contact frost@montana.edu

Who is interested in the degree?



The Ranching Systems degree has caught the attention of a wide variety of students from all walks of life. While some come with extensive experience in ranching, others are relative novices. The one thing each of these students has in common is a love of agriculture and the desire to make a positive contribution to the ranching industry. To date, 3 students are on track to apply for admission to the program in Fall of 2020 with more students expressing interest almost daily. We anticipate a full slate of 10 students entering the program by Fall of 2021.

Curriculum

The Ranching Systems Degree is a systems-level, rather than a discipline-specific approach, to educating and training outstanding graduates in the field of ranch management. In addition to the multi-discipline approach, the Ranching Systems Degree includes a highly structured internship (in conjunction with summer employment at a vetted cooperating ranch), seminars and ranching system courses that include experiential learning, “flipping the classroom” where students hone their communication and leadership skills, further development of critical thinking, lifetime learning, and nurturing their passion for the ranch management industry. The internships, seminars, and ranching systems courses are what tie the broad-based curriculum into a systems-level learning experience for our students. *To learn more about the integrated curriculum of the Ranching Systems degree, visit <http://animalrange.montana.edu/ranchsystemsdegree.html>*

Out of classroom educational events to date:

The following events were attended by Ranching Systems students in 2020 for networking and additional education

- **Montana Soil Health Symposium** – hosted by NRCS and numerous partners, students from the Ranching Systems attended one day of the conference to hear speakers on soil health, regenerative grazing practices, and to meet with progressive ranch owners and managers.
- **Ranching Profitability Course** – as part of a partnership between the Plank Stewardship Initiative and the DSRMP, students enrolled in Ranching Systems were allowed to attend a 3-day Ranching Profitability Workshop that highlighted strategies for economic analysis of each component of the ranching operation.

Rachel Frost was raised as the third generation on a small family ranch in Texas, where she envisioned raising her family. While that dream never materialized, she could not be happier with the path her life has taken and her new position as the Program Lead for the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program. “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” says Frost. “The ranch management program is the perfect avenue to use my education and experience to promote the ranching industry, while getting to work with some of the finest youth in the nation.”



Rachel Frost – Program Lead
for the Dan Scott Ranch
Management Program

Frost pursued a B.S and M.S. in Animal Science from Angelo State University, with the intent of returning to the family ranch. When family circumstances made that impossible, Frost and her family moved to Idaho where she pursued a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and Management at the University of Idaho. Upon graduation, Frost moved to MT where she worked at MSU in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences as a research scientist for 8 years. Frost and her colleagues conducted research on targeted grazing for vegetation management before she left the academic world to become the coordinator for the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council. “The Council was the perfect opportunity to strengthen my interpersonal and leadership skills,” Frost recalls.

Working for a board of 15 farmers and ranchers (mostly) and covering roughly one-third of the state, Frost learned the value of partnerships to tackle large-scale natural resource projects, formed coalitions to confront regional invasive plant challenges, and assisted numerous local working groups focused on improving communication between agencies and local landowners. “The Council was the ideal proving grounds for working with a variety of people, learning more about the conservation needs in MT, as well as the market, policy and social dynamics that are affecting the ranching industry.”

Frost believes that MSU is the perfect institution to host this new 4-year degree in Ranching Systems. MSU enjoys a unique relationship with the agriculture community in Montana and the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program is dependent on involvement from the ranching industry to provide students with the quality of education and life experience needed to be successful future managers. “The owners and managers of MT’s diverse ranches have a wealth of experience that I look forward to tapping for this program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if your ranch would like to host an intern, learn other ways to support the program, or offer some advice on successful owner / manager relationships. I would love to hear from you and share the latest progress on the program.” – Rachel Frost



L to R; Joleen, Katelyn, Rachel
and Jason Frost

Building a world class program

We need your support to make the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program a flagship program in ranch management education.

Partner program

Lead partner:

\$25,000+/year for five years

Industry partner:

\$5,000+/year for five years

Major partner:

\$10,000+/year for five years

Supporting partner:

\$1,000+/year for five years

To join the Dan Scott Ranch Management partner program call Kevin Peterson at the MSU Alumni Foundation. 406-994-4207
Or at kevin.peterson@msuaf.org

Host a DSRMP Student Intern



The Dan Scott Ranch Management Program is seeking ranches that are dedicated to education of the next generation and are willing to host interns through the program.

Visit
http://animalrange.montana.edu/danscott_mentor_ranches.html

Interested in hosting an intern through the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program?

Contact: Rachel Frost, Program Lead
frost@montana.edu
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