February 24, 2010

University of Manitoba
Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Department of Animal Science

The following two positions in the Department of Animal Science are available for students eligible for the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba.

Position (1)**: Ph.D. student** with experience in beef cattle production systems
Project Description: The Canadian landscape includes form 4,804,496 hectares of tame or seeded pasture and 15, 391,072 hectares of natural land for pasture. A significant portion of this forage is used by the Canadian cattle industry as a source of feed for cows, bulls and growing stock. Understanding how cattle adjust their grazing behavior to contend with changing environmental and forage dynamics is paramount to a healthy grassland ecosystem and to optimize livestock production. The fall and winter periods in Canada present a unique opportunity to evaluate metabolic and behavioral strategies used by grazing animals in response to dietary and environmental stress.

Position (2): **MSc. student** with experience in beef cattle production systems or natural resource management
Project Description: Cattle use of riparian areas may lead to stream water contamination with nutrients, pathogens and sediments. Providing alternative water away from the stream may reduce the amount of time cattle spend near streams and therefore reduce contamination. The effects of providing alternative water troughs and alternative water troughs with a natural barrier will be evaluated. Cattle drinking behavior will be monitored using GPS collars and visual observation. Other strategies for evaluation of these systems will include cattle performance, stream bank health, and water quality.

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