



**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Graduate Assistantship in Agricultural Economics
Department of Economics
April 2018**



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Economics at South Dakota State University invites applications for a master's research assistantship position starting fall semester 2018. The position is for two years and is part of an USDA-funded multi-state research project by South Dakota State University, Michigan State University, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research.

Grasslands in the U.S. are threatened by overgrazing, increasingly frequent and severe drought and land use change. Depending on the management strategy they select, grassland managers can maintain resilient ecosystems while optimizing long-term economic returns. The selected student will conduct research on economic and land use consequences of different grazing management practices in US Great Plains, to better understand factors that affect adoption decisions and the proper incentives government may provide.

The M.S. student will work under direct supervision of Dr. Tong Wang (South Dakota State University) and will also interact with other project investigators (Drs. David Hennessy and Hongli Feng, Michigan State University) on a regular basis. Specific tasks include but not are limited to: 1) analyzing survey data; 2) developing appropriate econometric models and estimating those with software such as SAS and STATA; 3) assisting investigators with research-related project activities; and 4) developing a thesis topic within the objectives of the project which will lead to presentations in the professional conference and potential paper(s) published in peer-reviewed journals.

The position includes full tuition and a stipend of \$16,132 (12-month academic year) for 2 years. The start date for this position is August 22, 2018. The selected student will complete master's degree in Economics in the Department of Economics at South Dakota State University.

Qualifications: BS degree in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Natural Resource Management, or a related field; GPA of 3.0 or greater; Highly motivated and capable of working independently; Excellence in spoken and written English; Previous research experience with interdisciplinary research projects, and familiarity with SAS, STATA, MATLAB, or related statistical analysis software are highly desirable.

Individuals wishing to apply should email Dr. Tong Wang (tong.wang@sdstate.edu) the following documents: 1) cover letter that states the applicant's relevant research experience and interests, 2) CV or resume, 3) transcripts (unofficial is acceptable), and 4) contact information of three professional references.

Closing Date: Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled; however, applications will be guaranteed for review if submitted by April 10.

For more information, contact: Dr. Tong Wang, Department of Economics, South Dakota State University.

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THE INSTITUTION

South Dakota State University (SDSU) is the state's largest, most comprehensive university. As South Dakota's Morrill Act Land-Grant University, SDSU had a fall 2015 enrollment of 12,589 students from all 50 states and 79 countries. The University provides a rich academic experience in an environment of inclusion and access through inspired, student-centered education, creative activities and research, innovation and engagement. The American Association of University Professors categorizes SDSU as a Category 1 institution. The University is classified in the Carnegie Classification system as a Doctoral University with Higher Research Activity.

The University has been designated an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and its Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity is a major resource for the economic development needs of the state.

Department of Economics:

The Department of Economics (<http://www.sdstate.edu/econ/>) offers Bachelor's degrees with majors in Economics, Business Economics, Entrepreneurial Studies, Agricultural Business, and Agricultural and Resource Economics through the Colleges of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and Arts and Sciences. The faculty of approximately 30 members and 4 extension field specialists comprises disciplinary qualifications in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Finance, Accounting, Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurial Studies. The Department offers a broad spectrum of courses in these areas, and hosts about 750 undergraduate majors and 30 graduate students. A Master's degree in Economics provides opportunities for students to differentiate their career path through electives and their thesis research. Department graduates hold key leadership and management positions across the northern Great Plains and Midwest in banking, investment and venture capital firms, processing and manufacturing, energy and bioenergy, and food and agribusiness management, and are leaders among the innovation and entrepreneurship community.