

Garth R. Ruff M.S.
Assistant Professor
Field Specialist, Beef Cattle and Livestock Marketing
The Ohio State University Extension
16714 Wolf Run Rd., Caldwell, Ohio 43724

B.S. Animal Sciences – Industry Specialization, The Ohio State University, May 2015
M.S. Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University, May 2017

Employment History

2023-Present: The Ohio State University Extension. Assistant Professor, Field Specialist, Beef Cattle and Livestock Marketing. Current appointment: Extension (100%)

2020-2023: The Ohio State University Extension. Program Manager and Field Specialist, Beef Cattle. Current appointment: Extension (100%)

2017 - 2020: The Ohio State University Extension, Henry County. Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, reflective of promotions from A&P Educator Rank 1 to Rank 2. Appointment: Extension (100%).

Areas of Specialization

Beef Production; Farm Management; Meat Science

Biographical Narrative

I have held the position of Assistant Professor Field Specialist within the Department of Extension at The Ohio State University since November 1, 2023. The position includes responsibilities for guidance and development of outreach programming that will position Ohio's beef industry to maintain and improve financial sustainability while concurrently addressing the role of animal agriculture within the local economy, landscape, and environment.

I first became interested in a career in Extension as an opportunity to assist livestock producers in being more efficient and profitable in their operations. Growing up with a father who worked in livestock marketing, I would spend my summers riding with him to different farms and asking questions about why farmers did certain things.

As a student at Ohio State, my advisor and mentor suggested I pursue a career in Extension education after giving me the opportunity to teach an undergraduate course and do several Extension programs specifically for youth and meat science. From those experiences I have developed a people first approach to my Extension career, asking questions to listen and problem solve before making recommendations to farmer that could impact the economic sustainability of their farm operation.

My goal when working with livestock producers is to address their needs for the betterment of the agricultural community in large. My Extension program focuses on three major program areas, Beef Production (50%), Farm Management (30%), and Meat Science (20%)

Beef Production (50%)

Beef cattle are raised in all 88 of Ohio's counties. Within beef production, I have conducted programs and developed curriculum in a variety of areas depending on the beef enterprise, current issues in the beef industry and needs identified by clientele. My goal is to share science based information that allow beef cattle producers to make farm level decisions that improve processes, production or profitability.

Farm Management (30%)

Economic sustainability and profit potential at the farm level is an underlying focus of many, if not all of the programs that I plan and teach. Every ANR Extension program can be a farm management program, whether it be focused on record keeping, cost analysis, or commodity marketing. Part of my appointment is to work in the area of livestock marketing where, risk management and increasing profit potential are at the forefront of programming in that area.

Meat Science (20%)

I hold an undergraduate minor in meat science and was heavily involved in Meat Science Extension as a graduate student. Since then, I have taught and created curriculum in the area of fresh meat quality, food safety, and direct to consumer meat sales. I have taught the Grill Smart curriculum in several counties since 2018, and have presented that program at national Extension meetings. A large audience for program related to fresh meat quality are youth who are involved with livestock projects in 4-H and FFA.

Research:

Beef Production

Heifer development research is an area of need given the economics of the beef industry. At the Jackson Agricultural Research station, I have been keeping records on the heifer development program utilized from the time weaned females arrive at the station until the time they are re-bred as two year olds. The goal is to quantify cost of heifer development, track fallout rate of those females in the herd, and evaluate heifer rearing practices. We currently have one good year of data on this project.

I am also part of a team that is working on an USDA Climate Smart Grant look at the capabilities of slatted floor beef feeding facilities to retain nitrogen in the manure. Scholarly outputs will include educational videos, extension curricula, fact sheets, and journal publications.

Farm Management

My most recent farm management research has revolved around the impact of COVID and ethnic holidays on the lamb markets in Ohio. Scholarly outputs will include educational videos, extension curricula, fact sheets, and journal publications.

Forage Production

Previous research in forage production has focused on how annual forages can fit crop rotations and by utilized by livestock growers. A current project driven by clientele in SE Ohio is looking at how effective mechanic control strategies of Johnsongrass is. Scholarly outputs will include educational videos, extension curricula, fact sheets, and journal publications.

Creative Works: Published journal articles, abstracts, technical reports, proceedings, magazine articles, educational videos, blog posts and state, national and international presentations.

Grants & Other Funding Received grants and other funding totaling over \$57,000

Service and Engagement—Professional

2022-Ongoing: State Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator

2022-Ongoing: Youth Quality Assurance Curriculum Committee

2020-Ongoing: Assuring Quality Care for Animals Committee

2020-Ongoing: Ohio State Fair Beef Skilathon Superintendent

2020 – Ongoing. Ex. Officio. Ohio Cattlemen’s Association

Honors & Awards Recipient of numerous local, state and national awards for teaching, creative work and service.