

September 17, 2015

The Honorable Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge
1000 Houston St., 3rd Floor
Laredo, TX 78040
PH: 956-523-4600, FX: 956-523-5065
Email: webbcountyjudge@webbcountytx.gov

Dear Judge Tijerina:

On behalf of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, I would like to request your support of an agenda item for your scheduled Commissioners Court Meeting on Monday, September 28, 2015. The purpose of this item is to **discuss and act on a recommendation to the court for candidates to fill the following County Extension Agent positions serving Webb County:**

- County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources effective November 1, 2015
(county portion of agent salary, \$24,630.00)
- County Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development effective February 4, 2015
(county portion of agent salary, \$22,307.00)

This shall also serve to confirm the county's continuing support for the county portion of the agents' salaries as listed above.

I appreciate your support of Extension and the programs and services it supports for the residents of Webb. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ruben J. Saldaña, Ed.D.
District Extension Administrator

RJS:lg

cc: Frank Sciaraffa, Webb County Commissioner
Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina, Webb County Commissioner
John Galo, Webb County Commissioner
Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner

South District 12
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
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Martha Alicia Ramirez

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences
MSC 156, Kingsville, TX 78363
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Education

- Texas A&M University-Kingsville; *Master of Science* *Sept. 2008-May 2012*
Degree: Animal Science
Advisor: Dr. M.R. Garcia
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville; *Aug. 2005-Dec. 2007*
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
Major: Animal Science

Experience

- **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-Kingsville** *Sept. 2008-present*
 - **Teacher Assistant: Undergraduate Courses Taught**
 - ANSC 1419 Introduction to Animal Science
 - ANSC 4303 Domestic Animal Anatomy & Physiology
 - AGRI 1201 Agriculture & Human Sciences as Professions
 - ANSC 2310 Livestock Management Techniques
 - ANSC 3313 Reproductive Physiology of Domestic Animals
 - **Primary Instructor** *Jan-Dec 2014*
 - ANSC 2310 (2 semesters)
 - Primary Study: The Effect of Blocking Ovarian-Secreted Leptin On the Development of Corpora Lutea Tissue
 - Collaborative Studies:
 - ◆ The effect of plant tannins on adipocytes metabolic components.
 - ◆ Immunocontraception in male feral swine treated with a recombinant gonadotropin-releasing hormone vaccine.
 - ◆ Effect of Early Weaning and Diet on Age at Puberty
 - ◆ Leptin Is Involved In The Vascularization Of The Corpus Luteum
 - The Society for the study of Reproduction (SSR) Meeting 2010 and 2012: Trainee
 - Animal Science Southern Section: Graduate Student Presentation Competition 2011

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY KINGSVILLE FARM-LIVESTOCK HERDSMAN

- Assisted farm manager with planning and organizing day to day operations for the TAMUK farm
- Worked with farm specialist, as well as assisted with the immediate supervision of 3-5 student workers to accomplish daily needs.
 - Resumes and class schedules were gathered and I was responsible for interviewing for the student worker positions.
- Worked with the farm manager & farm specialist to coordinate teaching and research functions with appropriate college faculty members.

- Short term goals were developed for various livestock units
 - Appropriate livestock nutrition requirement and feeding rations and breeding programs.
- Maintaining monthly animal and feed inventory reports & health records
- Responsible for creating L-Docs in FAMIS, scanning invoices through Laserfiche, and monthly P-card allocations and following with scanning as well.
- Assisted the farm manager in establishing annual TAMUK Farm operating budget and assisted with the management of the budget throughout the year.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville INTERIM FARM MANAGER *April-July 2013*

- Supervision of 1 full time farm specialist, 1 full time temporary emergency hire for livestock herdsman, and 1 full time student worker at the TAMUK Farm by providing direction and assistance in daily operations.
- Supervision and organization of the TAMUK farm assistance in the maintenance of the Livestock Pavilion/Rodeo Arenas and horse facilities by establishing priorities.
- Coordinating teaching and research functions with appropriate faculty members.
- Management of farm operating budget through the last months of the fiscal year.
- Implementing short-term goals of individual animal units (breeding and management).
- Picked up on administrative duties. Learned in a short period of time to use various internal tamu-systems.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville FARM MANAGER *July 2103- present*

- Management of office, staff, graduate and undergraduate students
- Management of budgets, including wages & operations
- Supervise Livestock Herdsman & Farm Specialist with daily responsibilities
- Management of livestock, including cattle, goat, sheep, & swine herds including breeding, tagging, vaccinations, and dehorning/hoof trimming
- Work with two farm staff members to assess nutritional needs of livestock
- Maintain up to date inventory and health records of all livestock
- Support daily maintenance & upkeep of facilities, machinery and equipment
- Work collaboratively with Farm Advisory Committee to develop grazing management plans, including brush management & prescribed fire needs
- Worked collaboratively with Emergency Response Committee to develop disaster plans a
- Work collaboratively with Animal & Wildlife Science Faculty to meet educational & research needs through utilization of farm resource
- Maximize farm production in order to surpass revenue quota set by finance department
- Maintain good communication with pipeline personnel related to on site visitation needs

Awards

2011 Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences; Outstanding Graduate Student masters award for Animal Science

2010 Javelina Research Symposium

Provost's award in Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (Master's Division)

Skills

Molecular Biology

- RNA and DNA extraction, Real time PCR, Sub-cloning, Transformations, Western Blot, Immunohistochemistry

Cell Culture

- Primary cultures: adipocytes, dispersed luteal cells,

Surgery

- Species-caprine and swine
- Invasive surgery: conduct ovariectomy, osmotic pump insertion
- Non-Invasive surgery: conduct subcutaneous adipose tissue harvest
- Surgery anesthesia technician: administer anesthesia and maintain surgical plane
- Monitor vital sign
- Emergency animal resuscitation (CPR-mouth to mouth)

Animal Handling skills

Species- caprine, swine, and bovine

- Blood collection
- Feeding management and handling
- medical treatment
- breeding
- euthanasia

Computer Skills

- Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, Photoshop in windows system, Page, Numbers and Keynote in Macintosh system

Language

- Fluent Spanish

Publications

Campbell, T.A., M.R. Garcia, L.A. Miller, **M.A. Ramirez**, D.B. Long, J-B. Marchand, F. Hill. Immunocontraception in male feral swine treated with a recombinant gonadotropin-releasing hormone vaccine. *2010 J. Swine Health and Production*. 18(3)

M.A. Ramirez, F. Xie, E.A. Benavides, R.A. Katchko, L. Ayala, D.H. Keisler, R.L. Stanko, and M.R. Garcia. Blocking Ovarian Leptin Increases Abnormal Luteal Formation in the Caprine Species. 2010. *Biol. Reprod.* 81:230 (abstract).

M.A. Ramirez, F. Xie, E.A. Benavides, R.A. Katchko, L. Ayala, D.H. Keisler, R.L. Stanko, and M.R. Garcia. Leptin is important for normal corpus luteal formation in the goat species.

2010. Javelina Research Symposia GRADUATE POSTER PRESENTATION:
PROVOST AWARD.

M.A Ramirez, F. Xie, E.A. Aguirre, RA Katchko, L Ayala, DH Keisler, RL Stanko, MR Garcia.
The effect of Anti-Leptin influences normal formation of the corpus luteum in the caprine
species. 2011 American Society of Animal Science Southern Section. 43 (abstract)

M.A Ramirez, F. Xie, E.A. Aguirre, RA Katchko, L Ayala, DH Keisler, RL Stanko, MR Garcia.
The Effect of Blocking Ovarian-Secreted Leptin On the Development of Corpora Lutea
Tissue. 2012 Thesis

Onelisa Garza

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Work Experience

- ❖ **USDA Office of Communications Intern (05/15- Present)** **Washington, D.C.**
 - **Supervisor: Alyn Kiel**
 - Write correspondence for Secretary Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Harden
 - Update USDA public documents with current data
 - Edit and revise correspondence

- ❖ **USDA Undergraduate Research Student (01/13-Present)** **Kingsville, Texas**
 - **Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Rhoades**
 - Analyze and evaluate new farming/ ranching technologies for producers in the Coastal Bend areas of Texas, such as drone technology.
 - Created and analyzed surveys for the 2014 Beef Cattle Short Course

- ❖ **KRIRM Student Worker (03/15-05/15)** **Kingsville, Texas**
 - **Supervisor: Erica Salazar**
 - File King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management documents and correspondence
 - Help organize and plan KRIRM events such as lectureships
 - Create updated member spreadsheets

- ❖ **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Intern (05/14-08/14)** **Edinburg, Texas**
 - **Supervisor: Andrea Valdez, CEA**
 - Shadowed County Extension Agents and Specialists across South Texas.
 - Special Project: Hidalgo County 4-H Council
 - Helped implement school gardens in the mid- Rio Grande Valley school districts.
 - Worked with county commissioners in jumpstarting the *Healthy South Texas* grant initiative.

Education

- ❖ **Texas A&M University- Kingsville (08/12- Present)** **Kingsville, Texas**
 - Major: Agriculture Science
 - Minor: Communication Speech
 - GPA: 3.8

- ❖ **South Texas College (Dual Enrollment 08/11-05/12)** **McAllen, Texas**
 - GPA: 4.0

Volunteer Work

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ❖ Kingsville Nursing and Rehabilitation | Kingsville, Texas |
| ❖ Kleberg County Jr. Livestock Show | Kingsville, Texas |
| ❖ Freer County Fair | Freer, Texas |
| ❖ Area X FFA Leadership Development Events | Kingsville, Texas |
| ❖ Area X FFA Livestock Judging | Robstown, Texas |
| ❖ Adopt a Highway: Texas A&I Alumni Association | Kingsville, Texas |

Honors

- ❖ 2015 Outstanding Student- Agriculture Science
- ❖ President- Texas A&M University- Kingsville Collegiate FFA
- ❖ Guest Speaker for Kleberg County 4-H Achievement Night
- ❖ Texas Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet: Final Four
- ❖ Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Achievement Scholar
- ❖ President's List
- ❖ Dean's List

Affiliations

- ❖ Kleberg County Fire Rescue: Station 1
- ❖ Texas A&M University- Kingsville Collegiate FFA
- ❖ Texas A&M University- Kingsville Golden Key International Honor Society

References

- ❖ Dr. Ryan Rhoades, TAMUK Assistant Professor
 - 361-593-4756
 - ryan.rhoades@tamuk.edu
- ❖ Andrea Valdez, Texas AgriLife Extension Service CEA- FCS
 - 956-383-1026
 - andrea.valdez@ag.tamu.edu
- ❖ Alyn Kiel, USDA Speechwriter
 - 202-720-2346
 - alyn.kiel@oc.usda.gov