

**American Society of Animal Science
Candidate for the Graduate Director Position
2010**

Rebecca R. Cockrum

Rebecca Cockrum graduated in 2004 with her BS degree in animal science from Arkansas State University. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, she obtained an externship with the St. Louis Zoo in the endocrinology laboratory, where she received training in laboratory techniques and management. After her externship, she served as a scientific recruiter, managing more than 90 employees and working directly with managers of scientific research companies to provide quality scientists with all levels of experience. In 2007, Cockrum began her MS program in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming under the direction of Kristi Cammack. During her thesis research, Cockrum had the opportunity to take the lead role on 3 research projects and collaborate on 3 additional projects. In 2009, she successfully defended her thesis, titled "Effects of Subacute Nitrate Toxicity on Production, Reproduction, and Gene Expression in Suffolk Ewes." Her thesis work has produced one publication as a primary author, one publication currently in revisions as a primary author, and 2 publications as a contributing author. Cockrum is continuing her education at the University of Wyoming in the Department of Animal Science, where she will focus on determining genetic mechanisms controlling feed intake in sheep and identifying markers that can be used by producers to genetically select for more highly efficient animals. She plans to complete her PhD program in May of 2012. Cockrum is a proven leader; she has served as president of the University of Wyoming Animal Science Graduate Student Association and is currently serving on the Small Ruminant Committee for National ASAS. In addition, she has assisted professors and instructed students in Principles of Animal Breeding and Current Issues in Animal Science courses offered at the University of Wyoming. Cockrum has been an active member of ASAS since 2007 and seeks to obtain a position with ASAS where she can have a direct effect on the next generation of animal science professionals and their role in the agriculture industry.

Vision Statement

Americans are continually moving further away from agriculture as privately owned farms are absorbed into corporations, leading to a growing disconnect between the processes involved in food production and the end product. It is my vision to inspire both future and current animal scientists to actively engage in educating the public on the importance of agriculture and the effect that animal scientists have on its continued improvement. Through student recruitment by both innovative and classic technologies and dissemination to committee members of graduate student feedback from surveys, personal interviews, and networking, I will be able to assist ASAS in its goal for continued diverse and global expansion and appropriately represent the voice of future scientists. As the graduate student director, I will support the endeavors of ASAS in the

discovery, dissemination, and application of animal research for the sustainability of the agriculture industry and the people it serves.