

2010 ASAS Western Section Graduate Student Representative Candidate

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 over 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 three research projects and collaborate on three 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 two 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 as 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 the Western Section of ASAS where she can have a direct effect on the next generation of animal science professionals and their role in the agriculture industry.