

Post-doctoral Fellowship

Social Context of Sustainable Grazing Practices

Innovation – Extension – Adoption – Identity

Terms of Employment: Full-time pre-tax salary \$45,000 annually, plus health benefits (single or family). Operating costs and travel support available as appropriate to activities. One-year appointment with possibility of renewal for an additional year, subject to performance. Possibility of part-time at a pro-rated salary, if preferred.

Location: School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia or Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

Tasks and Responsibilities: This project focuses on transitions to sustainable grazing systems, including adaptive rotational grazing approaches such as adaptive multi-pasture (AMP) or holistic management (HM). We seek to critically examine the possibilities for innovation in grazing systems, with attention to social context. The PDF will design, implement, analyze and publish research based on questions arising in this ongoing SSHRC-supported project. We hope to develop the specific project in collaboration with the potential scholar, but some questions of interest include:

- How do neighbour relations and other spatial phenomena (i.e. visibility, proximity, fence adjacency) influence farmer adoption of sustainable practices?
- How do farmers experience, interpret and cope over time with changes in production that can accompany the adoption of sustainable practices?
- Who is attracted to sustainable grazing practices? Are system thinkers born or made? What role do trainers play in the development of system thinking?

Methodological approaches could range from the qualitative (interview) to quantitative (survey) to mixed (e.g. cognitive mapping) depending on project and approach.

Required:

- Awarded PhD in social science, livestock science, agricultural extension, adult education or other related field.
- Success with scholarly publication, including leading papers.
- Knowledge of the Canadian agricultural sector, ideally its livestock industry, with Canadian citizens or residents preferred.

Applications received by 1 August 2017 will be considered, for PDF start between September 2017 and March 2018. Pre-application enquiries are welcome. Applicants should submit applications (CV, sample publication and a cover letter explaining their interest and experience relative to the above) to the scholar at the preferred site (Halifax or Edmonton), copying the other:

- Dr **Kate Sherren**, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, kate.sherren@dal.ca
- Dr **John Parkins**, Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, jparkins@ualberta.ca

