Livestock Field Calls Increase in Popularity, Help Better Prepare Students

Associate Professor Dr. Richard Pereira recently joined the veterinary hospital’s Livestock Herd Health and Reproduction Service (LHHR), allowing for additional caseload. With the workforce to nearly double its capacity, the service has set out to build on client satisfaction and engage more ranchers and producers. The increase brings more opportunities for students to “get their feet wet” with real-life field settings that they will encounter in their careers.

As expressed in a recent livestock client survey, LHHR services are in increasing demand, especially in the areas of field service, reproduction and general herd health. Other items on the survey also clearly indicated additional field visits would attract more clients. With additional visits come additional teaching opportunities for fourth-year students completing their clinical rotations. Even students focused on small animal careers enjoy and benefit from experiences with livestock, as they look to achieve the most well-rounded education possible. Some even decide on livestock careers after the field experience, which benefits the industry, as the world seeks new ways to feed a growing population projected to reach 10 billion by 2050.

With the majority of current clients located in a 40-mile radius, the increasing activity for LHHR will allow for added exposure into newer markets beyond the immediate Sacramento Valley, such as large ranches in Nevada, and beef and dairy production facilities throughout California.

The veterinary hospital’s livestock services hope to increase their client base.