

RUMINANT NUTRITIONIST

Ruminant nutritionists determine feed rations, conduct research and consult farmers and ranchers regarding feeding practices for their animals. Ruminant animals include cows, sheep, llamas and goats.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Consider the varied nutritional needs of the animals in question and formulate balanced feed rations based on nutritional and caloric requirements of the animals
- Assess condition of animals (level of fatness), as well as level of activity and physiological demands (productivity performance, reproductive needs, growth and/or lactation requirements, or need for weight gain or loss) depending on season, temperature, and hair coat thickness
- Utilize computer programs specially created for particular species or type of livestock to formulate best, low-cost rations for a client
- Involvement in research or teaching activities, from conducting work in conjunction with livestock veterinarians, animal health technicians, zookeepers, to working with industry research groups and scientists, such as with meat scientists
- Regularly call on and service company clients and customers
- Provide technical training to customers and sales representatives
- Understand and apply the data available to support ruminant performance enhancement technologies
- Work with feed production team to develop new feed products and ensure highest level of quality of feeds sold and produced for sale
- Build and maintain relationships and influence with others including nutritionists, meat scientists, veterinarians, extension, and university personnel, packing plant employees
- Determine the effectiveness of dietary regimes
- Carry out sales and marketing strategies to promote products
- Understand trends in the industry and changes to governmental regulations



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

A Master's or doctorate degree in animal science, ruminant nutrition, forage production or related field

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, animal science, biology, chemistry, mathematics

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Small to large-scale animal production companies, animal health/feed companies, government agencies

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Society of Animal Science
- American Feed Industry Association
- National Grain and Feed Association

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$85,000