

## 2026 Summer Projects

Name	Department	Area of Study	email
Dr. Sarah Wood	Vet Path	Learn beekeeping and improve pollinator health with science! We are seeking enthusiastic DVM students to study honey bee diseases and the role of pollinators in sustainable agriculture. Specific projects include improving pesticide risk assessment for male honey bee drones and investigating infection dynamics of the mysterious bacterial brood disease of honey bees, European foulbrood. Your project will involve a mix of field and laboratory research in collaboration with our diverse and dynamic team of over 20 members. Join us!	<a href="mailto:sarah.wood@usask.ca">sarah.wood@usask.ca</a>
Dr. Emily Jenkins	Vet Micro	A hands-on summer veterinary student position supporting small mammal trapping in SK and the NWT. The student will be partially based in Yellowknife, NT with opportunities for travel within territory. The student will assist with field trapping, sample and data collection, and necropsies on free-ranging small mammals. Work will focus on assessing species biodiversity trends and testing for key zoonotic pathogens such as Hantavirus and Echinococcus spp. Supervised by Dr Emily Jenkins (WCVI) and Dr Naima Jutha (wildlife veterinarian for the NWT).	Emily Jenkins ( <a href="mailto:Emily.jenkins@usask.ca">Emily.jenkins@usask.ca</a> ).
Dr. Vanessa Cowan	VBMS	This project will use ultrasound to study the effects of ergot alkaloid mycotoxins and soy-based isoflavones on peripheral blood vessel function in beef cattle. The DVM student will collaborate with a graduate student on this research and will gain substantial hands-on experience with beef cattle. The project will take place at the Livestock and Forage Center of excellence throughout the summer of 2026.	<a href="mailto:vanessa.cowan@usask.ca">vanessa.cowan@usask.ca</a>
Dr. Michael Wu	VBMS	A summer project will entail screening for bacterial genetic factors and feedlot samples to discover potential modifications to the drug ivermectin in contributing to antiparasitic resistance in veterinary medicine.	<a href="mailto:michael.wu@usask.ca">michael.wu@usask.ca</a>
Dr. Dinesh Dadarwal	LACS	Using Wearable Sensors to Improve Breeding Management in Beef Cattle  This summer research project is designed for students interested in cattle breeding and gaining hands-on experience with artificial insemination (AI), estrus detection, and pregnancy diagnosis. It explores the use of wearable sensors to monitor behavior, activity, and physiological signals in beef cows, aiming to optimize breeding management and improve reproductive outcomes.	<a href="mailto:did651@mail.usask.ca">did651@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr. Dinesh Dadarwal	LACS	From Calving to Recovery: Immune Cell Changes in Dairy and Beef Cows  This summer research project is ideal for students with an interest in cattle reproduction and hands-on lab work. It follows longitudinal changes in endometrial and uterine immune cells in dairy and beef cows using flow cytometry, aiming to uncover markers linked to uterine recovery, inflammation, and reproductive success.	<a href="mailto:did651@mail.usask.ca">did651@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr. Elisabeth Snead	SACS	Looking for a student with strong interest in feline medicine for a project investigating the basis of a unique coagulopathy seen with FIP in cats and to determine if it shares similarities with COVID-19 associated coagulopathy in people.	<a href="mailto:ecs212@mail.usask.ca">ecs212@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr. Al Chicoine	VBMS	I will also likely have a few other small residue depletion or pharmacokinetic projects over the spring / summer.	<a href="mailto:alc869@mail.usask.ca">alc869@mail.usask.ca</a>

Dr. Al Chicoine/ Dr. Vanessa Cowan	VBMS	atipamezole and naloxane via intranasal injection for reversal of opioid / alpha-2-agonist sedation in our research Beagles. We are putting a small CAHF grant request in for this project, and it would be nice to have a summer student as well.	<a href="mailto:alc869@mail.usask.ca">alc869@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr. Claire Card	LACS	This exciting summer research position involves assisting with the breeding management and sample collection from research mares and stallions for a project focussed on embryo collection and culture. The summer student will receive side by side mentoring in equine reproduction techniques, and ELISA hormone assays. The team works hard, has fun and is known to drink ice cappuchinos.	<a href="mailto:cec062@mail.usask.ca">cec062@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr. Rodrigo Carrasco Bravo	vbms	Project 1: The project is intended to understand the acute effects of cannabinoids on reproductive hormone secretion using a rodent model. The student will learn rodent handling, assessment of reproductive cycles, blood sampling and hormonal quantification. If interested, feel free to reach out.	<a href="mailto:roc271@mail.usask.ca">roc271@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr. Rodrigo Carrasco Bravo	vbms	Project 2: This project aims to understand the biological effects of estradiol on reproductive function and hormone secretion in an ovine model. The student will learn sheep handling, transrectal ultrasonography, blood sampling and hormonal analysis.	<a href="mailto:roc271@mail.usask.ca">roc271@mail.usask.ca</a>
Dr Yolande Seddon	LACS	Euthanasia of large swine.	<a href="mailto:yolande.seddon@usask.ca">yolande.seddon@usask.ca</a>
Dr. Lynn Weber	VBMS	A summer student will work with a DVM postdoctoral fellow and a PhD student in the lab on dog nutrition projects. The Weber lab examines links between dilated cardiomyopathy and grain-free diets as well as other potential feed ingredients that may be linked to adverse cardiac health. Projects use diet formulation, feeding trials, cardiac and vascular ultrasound techniques in dogs along with biochemical measurements of health in blood. The project for the summer student will vary according to interest, but will include a specific component that they will be responsible for, along with aiding the other personnel with their projects.	<a href="mailto:lynn.weber@usask.ca">lynn.weber@usask.ca</a>
Dr. Tony Ruzzini	Vet Micro	Antimicrobial resistance at beef cattle feedlots. This project will be focused on describing environmental and pathogenic bacteria that are resistant to widely used antibiotics in beef production. Students will have opportunities learn new skills that range from basic and molecular microbiology to biochemistry.	<a href="mailto:antonio.ruzzini@usask.ca">antonio.ruzzini@usask.ca</a>
Dr. Chris Luby	LACS	This project gives you the chance to gain experience in dairy production medicine through both research and hands-on learning. Your project will include working with dairy farm data to answer a research question about herd health and production. Depending on funding from Global Affairs Canada (which should be confirmed before the application deadline), you could have the opportunity to travel to India, the world's largest dairy producer, to gain experience in research and learn about dairy production in a more global context. Alongside research, you will gain extensive hands-on experience with dairy cattle, which are critical skills for a career in food animal practice.	<a href="mailto:chris.luby@usask.ca">chris.luby@usask.ca</a>

Dr. Adelaine Leung	VBMS	Project 1: Conserved neural mechanisms underlying sex differences in energy metabolism - Using Drosophila as a powerful comparative model, you will explore conserved neural and metabolic pathways that link behaviour, nutrient sensing, and physiological regulation across species.	adelaine.leung@usask.ca
Dr. Adelaine Leung	VBMS	Project 2: Camelid nanobody biotechnology and protein engineering - This project provides hands-on training in molecular biology and protein biochemistry, with applications to camelid nanobody biotechnology.	adelaine.leung@usask.ca
Dr. Jaswant Singh	VBMS	Bison project This project is part of the Bison Integrated Genomics project and focuses on germplasm (semen and oocytes) collection for bison conservation and the establishment of a Bison Genome Biobank. Students will gain experience in bison handling, transrectal ultrasonography, semen collection, handling and freezing, assist with oocyte collections, and in vitro embryo production.	jaswant.singh@usask.ca
Dr. Jaswant Singh	VBMS	Cattle project We are developing a new synchronization protocol for cattle and need to challenge our drug with GnRH to determine the duration of its effectiveness. By the end of the summer, you will be proficient in transrectal ultrasonography, blood draws, and giving injections.	jaswant.singh@usask.ca