

From the Ground Up



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Quick Topics

*New Project Aims to Address Impacts of
Climate Change on Developing Countries
Dependant on Livestock Production*

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Credits

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New Project Aims to Address Impacts of Climate Change on Developing Countries Dependant on Livestock Production

Colorado State University has received a \$15 million grant to look at the impact of climate change on livestock around the globe, particularly in developing countries. The research will focus on ways to help developing countries manage livestock under changing climate conditions.

Multiple partnerships and projects

CSU will manage the grant and, over the next five years, develop partnerships for multiple research projects in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa and central Asia. The grant was awarded to CSU's [Animal Population Health Institute](#) and CSU's [Institute for Livestock and the Environment](#) by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The grant will fund CSU oversight of the project and CSU research in developing countries. The research will focus on ways to help developing countries manage livestock under changing climate conditions. In these developing countries, a large proportion of the population depends upon livestock for a significant part of their income. Ultimately, the goal is not just to study these processes but to help livestock producers to adapt to climate change and improve their livelihoods.

Broad challenges and issues

"The risks to livestock and developing livestock industries in these countries as a result of climate change encompass a broad range of issues and challenges – more than may meet the eye to the general observer," said Mo Salman, the principal investigator for this grant and a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at CSU.

"Solving complex problems like this necessitates an interdisciplinary team approach," explains Jessica Davis, Director of the ILE, Professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, and project director for this grant, "We will need the combined expertise from people working in infectious disease, agricultural economics, animal health, natural resources, and economics to find solutions that really work for people. Ultimately, our goal is not just to study these processes but to help livestock producers to adapt to climate change and improve their livelihoods."

Start to ID scope, location of climate change impacts

While it's clear that climate change will impact different regions of the globe, this grant helps scientists from multiple disciplines start to identify the scope, location, and nature

of those impacts so that planning for potential adaptations can begin.

This grant will focus on learning more about:

- risks and opportunities of climate change on livelihoods in the areas studied
- social and environmental impacts
- how infrastructure can be strengthened to better support food safety and animal health
- how livestock herders can change how they manage their businesses to optimize production while protecting the environment and health of animals



Research could help Colorado

The researchers point out that, like some regions of Africa, Colorado also is semi-arid and raising livestock is an important industry economically and culturally. The information gained from this grant could eventually help Coloradans adjust to similar changes.

The program will be led by a CSU management team of Salman, the principal investigator, Shana Gillette, co-principal investigator, [Jessica Davis](#), program director, and [Dana Hoag](#), associate director.

Communication, animal health, economics, natural resources

In addition to the management team from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the [College of Agricultural Sciences](#), other CSU collaborators will include the [Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory](#) and the [Warner College of Natural Resources](#). Expertise will encompass research in communication, animal health, animal science, agricultural economics and natural resources.

The grant is from the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#)'s Collaborative Research Support Programs.



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