

JUN/12/2024/WED 12:06 PM

FAX No.

P. 002



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June 12, 2024

My name is Boyd Spratling. I practice Veterinary Medicine in the very rural N.E. part of the state. The region has always been rich in natural resources that benefit both wildlife and domestic livestock. In my career, dramatic technological advances have occurred that have changed how our food is produced and improved the health of food animals. Best practices have matured, allowing more efficient production, but, as important, promoted animal wellbeing.

I work with cattle and horses. The equine is still a solid tool and close companion of the rancher.

My family has ranched in Elko County since 1962. Having been raised in the ranching culture has been foundational in my ability to successfully provide veterinary medical care to animal agriculture.

More veterinarians are needed who are willing to side step the lure of companion animal practice and provide care and advice to our ranching community. There is a greater need now, more than ever, because of the increasing number of services we can provide. Working with multi-generational ranching families has been part of the immense satisfaction that accompanies rural practice. They are not only clients, but lifelong friends.

This opportunity to work with USU in their initial steps of forming an accredited School of Veterinary Medicine is both timely and beneficial to Nevada's veterinary community and, also, the animals they care for. Providing a tuition subsidy through WICHE to eliminate the added cost of "Out of State" fees will be a tremendous benefit to promote graduates returning to the State of Nevada. I personally benefitted from the WICHE Program 49 years ago, as a young student pursuing my degree.

Both Nevada's citizens and their animals will reap the fruits of this endeavor.