

2026 MU VRSP mentor profile form

Mentor	Pamela Adkins
Departmental bio web page.	
Other relevant web pages, as applicable. E.g., lab group/personal web page, Google Scholar/ORCID profiles, others	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=TiOhAw4AAAAJ&hl=en
Research interests.	Bovine mastitis, molecular epidemiology of bacterial pathogens of food animal origin, Beef cow health
Active projects.	Characterization of heifer mastitis; understanding impacts of non- <i>aureus</i> staphylococcal species associated intramammary infections in dairy cattle; evaluation of infectious and non-infectious disease prevalence among beef cows in Missouri.
Research team. E.g., graduate students, post docs, technicians, other scholars	My lab group is small, it generally includes myself, faculty collaborators, and a few graduate students.
About you... Education/training Personal information, as interested—e.g., hobbies, etc.	I am a clinician scientist. I am a food animal veterinarian and work in the Food Animal Clinic in the VHC. I completed my DVM at Ohio State and my PhD and residency at Mizzou. Outside of work I hang out with my family, garden, bake, preserve foods, and spend time on our little farm.
Mentor Profile	
I am available to mentor students in career and life decisions, even if they do not choose research.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
My students are/can be involved in the creation/development of their projects.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
I expect students to contribute to manuscripts/publications.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
Students have the option to continue to work on this project.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
My students often work closely with a research team, e.g., lab tech or other students.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
I frequently touch base with my research team—e.g., students, technicians, etc.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
My mentoring style is very hands off.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	

Current/active project profile & timeline, including clinical vs. basic science.	The mastitis projects are ongoing and active. The beef cow health project is newly funded and will start this summer. All projects are clinical or applied science.
Lab structure, if applicable.	I have a small lab space in the VHC that is used for bacterial culture and sample processing. I also use space in the Comparative Internal Medicine laboratory in the Vet Med building. We also do a lot of work on farm.
What does a typical day of research look like for VRSP scholars?	It is variable. I most often allow independence regarding scheduling laboratory work. If we are going to a farm to work, we often preplan and prep for a specific time for the group to go. Most days, lab work will only last part of the day. I expect independent reading, data input, and writing. We have regular lab meetings and journal club.
What does engagement look like for your lab/project?	I want my students to fully understand their projects and the laboratory techniques they are using. I expect them to independently read and learn background information, ask questions, and provide input on plans, problem solving, and future direction.