

November 20-21, 2025

ITEM 221-2003-R1125

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Animal Science upon Bok F. Sowell; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Bok F. Sowell from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Bok Sowell began his career in agriculture working on small farms near Oxford, Colorado. He earned his B.S. in Wildlife Management from New Mexico State University (1978), his M.S. in Range Science from Texas Tech University (1981), and his Ph.D. in Range Cattle Nutrition from the University of Wyoming (1989). After four years as a faculty member at South Dakota State University, he joined Montana State University's Department of Animal and Range Sciences in 1993, where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2000 and Full Professor in 2005.

At MSU, Dr. Sowell distinguished himself as an outstanding educator. Dedicated to improving his teaching, he attended more than 80 professional development workshops and served as the College of Agriculture representative for the Center for Faculty Excellence. He worked closely with the Writing Center to strengthen students' communication skills, oversaw departmental assessment, and served as the Range Science Program Lead for the Society of Range Management Accreditation Team. His commitment to students extended beyond the classroom—ensuring accessibility for disabled and veteran students, offering personal support to those facing hardships, and mentoring countless undergraduates with patience and care.

Dr. Sowell's teaching excellence has been widely recognized. He received multiple Founders Day Awards, the College of Agriculture Instructor of the Year (2004), the MSU President's Excellence in Teaching Award (2004), the Anna Kruger Fridley Teaching Award (1998), and the Distinguished Teacher Award from the Western Section of the Society for Animal Science (2000), among others.

Although primarily a teacher, Dr. Sowell also made significant research contributions. His early work focused on beef cattle nutrition and later expanded to wildlife habitat, meadow restoration, and sage grouse-livestock interactions. He secured more than \$3.5 million in grant funding, published over 60 peer-reviewed papers, and advised 29 graduate students, many of whom now serve as land managers across the region. His expertise was also sought by Montana ranchers, veterinarians, and landowners dealing with rangeland or livestock issues.

Through his teaching, research, and service, Dr. Sowell has had a profound and lasting impact on students, colleagues, and Montana agriculture.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Bok Sowell the rank of Professor Emeritus of Animal Sciences at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None