

Cheyenne Summers

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Summary

Equine health and reproduction specialist with extensive field experience supporting veterinarians, horse owners, dealers, and academic partners across multi-state territories. Former manager of a large AAALAC-accredited equine breeding and research facility with responsibility for client relationship management, territory-level engagement, budgeting, billing, and high-volume equine operations. Proven ability to deliver technical education, translate complex science into practical, value-driven recommendations, and build trusted, long-term customer partnerships.

Education

University of Connecticut <i>PhD, Animal Science</i>	Storrs, CT August 2023 – March 2026
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>MS, Veterinary Medical Science – Comparative Biosciences</i>	Urbana, IL August 2019 – May 2021
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>BS, Animal Sciences</i>	Urbana, IL August 2015 – May 2019

Core Competencies

- Equine Health, Nutrition, and Reproductive Management
- Technical Communication and Education
- Territory Planning & Client Education
- Veterinarian, Owner, and Producer Relationship Management
- Educational Presentations and Technical Seminars
- Facility Operations, Budgeting, and Client Billing
- Protocol Development & Implementation
- Stallion, Broodmare, Foal, and Young Horse Management
- Equine Reproductive Technologies & Periparturient Management
- Research Interpretation & Data-Informed Decision-Making
- Public Speaking & Dissemination of Information

Professional Experience

University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science <i>Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Reed Lab</i>	Storrs, CT August 2023 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead research examining nutritional and metabolic influences on follicular development, ovulation induction, lactation, and developmental programming in horses, with direct relevance to equine health and performance outcomes.• Translate complex research findings into applied recommendations for veterinarians, students, and industry audiences through lectures and presentations.	

- Deliver technical presentations at regional and national conferences, effectively communicating value-driven insights to academic, veterinary, and industry stakeholders.
- Provide periparturient mare and neonatal foal support, including colostrum evaluation and neonatal health assessments, in collaboration with veterinarians.
- Train stallions for collection and instruct students in semen evaluation and extender use, reinforcing best practices in reproductive management.
- Teach and supervise hands-on equine reproduction and breeding management practices and coursework.
- Mentor undergraduate students and junior researchers, coordinating workflows across multiple concurrent projects with competing priorities.
- Serve on the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) National Board, contributing to strategic planning and execution of national events across territorial sections.

University of Connecticut Department of Animal Science

Storrs, CT

Research Assistant 2, Govoni Lab

December 2022 – August 2023

- Led data collection for multigenerational ovine studies examining maternal nutrition and fetal programming.
- Coordinated large-scale, multi-generational nutrition studies, managing logistics, timelines and personnel across over 1,300 research events.
- Oversaw neonatal care and health monitoring while maintaining detailed records to support data integrity and project outcomes.
- Supported cross-functional research teams, ensuring alignment of protocols, schedules, and deliverables.

University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences

Urbana, IL

Research Specialist in Agriculture, Equine Unit

June 2021 – December 2022

- Managed an AAALAC-accredited equine breeding and research facility housing approximately 89 stallions, broodmares, foals, and yearlings.
- Developed and managed comprehensive vaccination, preventative care, nutrition, and reproductive programs for all horses under my care.
- Managed all aspects of the farm business, including facility operations, staffing, client services, reproductive protocols, and nutrition programs, ensuring operational efficiency, horse welfare, and client satisfaction.
- Maintained the facility budget and facilitated client billing, with direct impact on operational and client financial outcomes.
- Collaborated directly with equine veterinarians, principal investigators, breeders, and horse owners to implement health, breeding, and neonatal protocols aligned with client and institutional objectives.
- Recruited, trained, and led a team of 17 student employees and interns, coordinating schedules and responsibilities to support high-volume breeding and foaling operations.
- Oversaw and housed commercial breeding stallions for artificial insemination and managed client billing, records, and regulatory compliance.
- Forged and actively managed a multi-state territory, building relationships with breeders and horse owners across Illinois and surrounding states to establish breeding contracts and manage commercial stallions throughout the breeding season.

- Served as a primary contact for owners and breeders, providing consultative guidance on reproductive planning, nutrition, and horse health to drive repeat business and long-term partnerships.
- Represented the facility at multi-day horse sales and industry events, building rapport and trust with breeders, trainers, and buyers to successfully market university- and client-owned yearlings and expand the client base.
- Converted new contacts into recurring clients through technical credibility, building relationships, and consistent communication and follow-up.
- Functioned as the first point of contact for client inquiries, maintaining high availability and responsiveness.
- Demonstrated comprehensive expertise in equine husbandry, health, and welfare, including stallion, broodmare, foal, weanling, and yearling care.
- Routinely assessed horse health and welfare and coordinated veterinary intervention as needed.

University of Illinois, Department of Comparative Bioscience

Urbana, IL

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Bagchi Lab

August 2019 – May 2021

- Led trials using gene-edited mouse models to study maternal-fetal interactions and pregnancy physiology.
- Managed the development and health of two high-health genetic mouse colonies.
- Performed histology, tissue dissection, DNA isolation, PCR, and microscopy for reproductive and developmental studies.
- Collaborated with multiple laboratories on research objectives; prepared and presented findings in academic settings.

Freedom of Movement Dressage & Eventing

White Heath, IL

Barn assistant

October 2018 – June 2019

- Provided care for a variety of performance and pleasure horses, ensuring their health, nutrition, and overall well-being.
- Skilled in working with horses of diverse temperaments and training levels, including stallions and young horses.
- Performed routine maintenance tasks to support the cleanliness, functionality, and safety of the barn and surrounding facilities.

University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Urbana, IL

Large Animal Clinic Student Caretaker

July 2017 – May 2018

- Maintained strict biosecurity protocols throughout the clinic to prevent cross-contamination and support animal health.
- Sanitized stalls, chutes, and surgery suites between animals to ensure a clean, safe, and sterile environment.
- Assisted in the daily care and handling of university-owned horses and livestock, contributing to their well-being and routine management.

University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences

Urbana, IL

Lead undergraduate employee, Equine Unit

August 2016 – May 2019

- Assumed management responsibilities in the absence of the farm manager, ensuring smooth daily operations, care, and safety of horses across the facility.
- Created work schedules, delegated tasks, and led undergraduate student teams to support efficient and effective farm operations.
- Trained new student workers in fundamental farm tasks, safe horse handling practices, and proper equipment use to maintain a productive learning environment.
- Administered basic veterinary-directed medical care, assisted in foaling, and conducted hands-on reproductive procedures including semen collection and processing.
- Skilled in the daily handling and care of stallions, broodmares, foals, and yearlings, ensuring high standards of welfare across all groups.

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

Delivered more than 25 invited lectures across multiple institutions on topics including:

- Equine Reproductive System & Disorders
- Management of broodmares and stallions
- Physiology of Pregnancy, Parturition, and Lactation
- Assisted Reproduction Technologies
- Equine Endocrinology

Conference Proceedings

Impacts of maternal nutrition during gestation on second parity F2 offspring growth and metabolism – ASAS Annual Meeting, 2025 (Talk)

Effect of an insulin bolus during intravenous glucose tolerance tests in horses – ASAS Annual Meeting, 2025 (Poster)

Impact of maternal body condition on maternal metabolism and foal metabolism – ESS Meeting, 2025 (Talk)

Effects of maternal body condition on colostrum, foal weight, and foal IgG concentrations – ASAS Annual Meeting, 2024 (Talk)

Effects of maternal nutrition during gestation on second parity F2 offspring growth and organ weights – ASAS Annual Meeting, 2024 (Poster)

Awards & Recognitions

PhD Poster Competition, Third Place *American Society of Animal Science* July 2025
“Effect of an insulin bolus during an intravenous glucose tolerance test in horses.”

Reproductive Physiology Competition, Third Place *Equine Science Society* June 2025
Oral presentation on “Impact of maternal body condition on maternal and foal metabolism.”

Certificate of Excellence, Graduate Research Forum *University of Connecticut* April 2025
“Impact of maternal body condition on maternal metabolism and foal metabolism.”

Leadership

American Society of Animal Science – Graduate Director (National) 2024-2026

American Society of Animal Science – Graduate Director (Northeast Section) 2023-2025

Professional Affiliations

American Society of Animal Science – Member

Equine Science Society – Member

Skills

Technical

- Ultrasound to monitor follicular development and pregnancy detection in horses
- ELISA, Radioimmunoassay, Radial immunodiffusion assay
- Multi-species jugular blood collection
- Stallion semen collection, processing, and artificial insemination
- Experienced in the development and management of horse barn preventative care and feed management
- Parturition and associated emergency assistance
- Neonatal assessment and colostrum quality evaluation
- Resource planning and utilization

Software/Data Analysis

- Research and Data Analysis
- Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, Word
- R Studio

Leadership & Communication

- Territory management
- Client Engagement
- Project management
- Team management and leadership
- Equine reproduction facility and animal management
- Dissemination of research across diverse audiences
- Coordination across teams to achieve objectives
- Teaching
- Public speaking
- Resource planning and utilization