



# New Faculty Spotlight:



## Dr. Philip Urso, PhD. School of Agricultural Sciences



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Dr. Philip Urso is a welcome addition to the new faculty here at Sam Houston State University this semester! Dr. Urso is an Assistant Professor for the School of Agricultural Sciences; he will be teaching several courses that fall under the minor of Wildlife Management such as: Game Animal Production, Pond and Habitat Management, Integrations of Livestock and Wildlife Species, and Upland Game Bird Management.

Having obtained his B.S. in Animal Science with a Biological concentration (2015) and an M.S. in Agriculture with a focus on Animal Nutrition (2017) from our very own institution, we can safely say Dr. Urso is a true Bearkat! He then moved on to pursue a Ph.D. in Animal Science with a Ruminant Nutrition and Cellular Biology focus from Texas Tech University (2020). His research interests in the near future include: trace mineral circulation in captive deer species, simulating cervid rumen in the laboratory, the effects of trace minerals on cervid satellite cells, and beta adrenergic agonists in antler velvet.



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Dr. Urso comes from an agricultural background, growing up on a working cattle ranch in Kaufman, Texas. He worked for his grandfather's veterinary practice and he also admired the work of many Conservationists from a young age - choosing a career in Animal Science and Agriculture, including wildlife studies, was an easy choice for him. He also shared that it wasn't until working as a tutor for the SHSU Writing Center that he realized he had great interests in teaching. This, along with his Agricultural interests, ultimately lead him to pursue a career in academia.

With regards to what brought Dr. Urso to Sam Houston, he states that "I am a proud Bearkat alumnus from the classes of 2015 and 2017. I am very glad to be here giving back to the students just as my former professors gave to me."

His advice to students is "College and life are both extremely hard. Don't be afraid to work to achieve big things, good grades, or any other goals you have. Get your hands dirty and pave your own way if needed." He also encourages students to "Serve when you can. The only thing worth doing is what you do for others".



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## FUN FACTS:

### Music Interests

“I love all kinds of music, but prefer alternative rock. It’s always ahead of mainstream and is different every time you listen to it.”

### Vacation Spots

“I love vacationing to the mountains and hiking in Colorado.”

### Collegiate Activities

“As an undergraduate, I was a part of the SHSU Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team.”

### Favorite Hobbies

“I love food. Cooking is my favorite hobby when I’m not working. I am also an avid hunter and fisherman, but I just love being outdoors and seeing/interacting with animals in any capacity.”

### Favorite foods

“My “last meal” – Appetizer of raw oysters, main course of a NY strip cooked medium rare with a pound of crawfish and side of a whole sweet potato with cinnamon, butter, and brown sugar, and a dessert of a classic style cheesecake.”