ENDOWMENT PURPOSE
The Sesnon Endowed Chair in Animal Science was established through a property gift made by Porter Sesnon, Barbara Sesnon Cartan, and William T. Sesnon, Jr. The Sesnon family conveyed their Paiute Meadows Ranch in Humbolt County, Nevada, to the Cal Aggie Foundation, which managed the property pursuant to the terms of the gift deed. When the ranch was sold, a large portion of the proceeds, totaling almost $1.3M, was allocated to the Department of Animal Science to endow the chair.

RESEARCH
The main objective of my research and teaching program is to understand the fundamental principles of sustainable animal agriculture focusing on environmental sustainability and quantification of variables important to sustainability. As the holder of the Sesnon Endowed Chair in Animal Science, my program focuses on (1) directing an active research and teaching program in mathematical modeling approaches to understand biological systems holistically, particularly greenhouse gas emissions and nutrient pollution; and (2) providing outreach and intellectual leadership for various governmental institutions and other stakeholders including international programs.

TEACHING
I teach two undergraduate courses and one graduate level course annually. I developed a new undergraduate course, “ANS 112 - Sustainable Animal Agriculture”, which is part of the required set of courses for the college major in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems and has a wide appeal across campus. I contribute to the IAD 10 (introduction to international agricultural development) class that has over 50 students on sustainable animal agriculture. I serve as major professor or co-advisor for 6 graduate students. I also trained 4 post-doctoral fellows and 1 project scientist. In addition, 16 visiting scientists were trained in my lab. Part of the endowment is used to support graduate students, particularly in the summer.

OUTREACH
I consider service and outreach to be an integral part of my appointment. I serve on numerous departmental and campus committees. Professionally, I frequently
provide reviews of manuscripts, serve as an invited reviewer for promotion and tenure decisions, and as an external examiner on dissertation defenses at other universities. Recently, I chaired a USDA panel on Climate Change and Variability Initiative. The endowment provides support for travel engagements, visiting stakeholders and professional organizations.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
The funds will be used to support a post-doctoral fellow looking into integrating animal and soil based models. The department has adopted sustainability and welfare as the main pillars of its research focus.

SPECIAL ENDOWMENT USE
The fund helped in organizing a special session on Mathematical Modeling of Sustainable Systems at the 4th International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition held in Sacramento, CA.

THANKS
The Sesnon endowment is very much appreciated as it provides a means to conduct cutting edge research that may not be funded otherwise for the benefit of CA and globally. The funds also help in conducting research aimed at improving food security and feeding the ever increasing population sustainably.