

# Samantha F. Stokes

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## EDUCATION

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- M.S. Natural Resources & Environment** August 2019 – April 2021  
**Focus in Environmental Justice**  
University of Michigan School for Environment & Sustainability GPA: 4.0
- B.S. Wildlife Management and Ecology** August 2014 - May 2018  
**Minor in Environmental Studies**  
Michigan Technological University GPA: 3.67, Cum Laude

## EMPLOYMENT

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**Farm & Food Business Assistance Specialist** August 2023 - Present  
[MSU Center for Regional Food Systems](#)

Work across multiple grants leading the design and implementation of outreach, programming and education for underserved food/farm entrepreneurs and coordinate networks that support navigation of the food supply-chain. Foster interpersonal and institutional relationships in service of underserved producers/entrepreneurs accessing technical assistance, financing and business development opportunities which position them to support low-income rural and urban communities in gaining equitable access to healthy, fair, affordable and culturally affirming foods.

- Act as primary business assistance provider to farms across MI
- Coordinate MI Incubator Kitchen Network & MI Food Hub Network
- Lead National Food Hub Survey

**Performance Improvement Coordinator** July 2020 – October 2023  
Chubb E Acres Farm LLC

Worked with owner/operator to breed, manage, raise, exhibit, market and sell Nigerian Dwarfs that are both productive and successful in the American Dairy Goat Association show ring, positively representing the breed and dairy goat industry.

- Supervised clipping, fitting, and training for show
- Supervised showmanship, handling, and navigation of multi-ring shows
- Collaboratively made breeding, retention, and purchase decisions
- Collaboratively designed and implemented management practices and nutrition programs that maximized performance in the dairy parlor and show ring.
- Developed and led marketing and consumer engagement efforts that result in the sale of animals/genetics across the county.

**Herd Performance Coordinator & Veterinary Assistant** April 2021 – October 2023  
Caprine & Ewe Veterinary Consulting PC

Along owner and head veterinarian, founded a consulting service to help small ruminant farmers better maintain herd health, increase production value, and improve performance in show rings. In addition to acting as a veterinary assistant, lead business marketing, client engagement & management, and continued education efforts. Offered consultation services that included an evaluation of current management practices and made suggestions for how to better meet individual farm/herd goals by addressing key issues such as:

- Genetic selection, retention, and culling
- Small ruminant nutrition (re)evaluation
- Dairy goat exhibition, evaluation, and marketing

- Husbandry, milking protocols, and breeding practices
- Integrated Parasite Management practices

### **MIFarmLink Coordinator**

Washtenaw County Conservation District

January 2023 – August 2023

Spearhead the development, launch and management of the new Washtenaw MIFarmLink program designed to connect landowners and land seekers via the MIFarmLink website and facilitate successful land matches. Work closely with community members, farmers, preservation partners and Conservation District Technicians to assemble, facilitate, and support the local Advisory Committee, drive outreach, and assist farmers with technical assistance in posting and assessing land.

### **Student Facilitator**

Decolonizing UM SEAS' Curriculum

August 2020 – April 2021

Facilitated the first two semesters of an initiative from within the Academic Affairs & DEI Office to begin decolonizing various syllabi at the University of Michigan's School for Environment & Sustainability. Provided leadership and guidance for 24 graduate students helping 13 faculty members interrogate & de-centralize colonial narratives within their syllabi while incorporating the pedagogies & knowledge of BIPOC. Each semester culminated in feedback sessions/presentations/interviews where participating faculty and students reflected on what they learned, how the initiative could be improved and why it is critical to decolonize environmental curriculums.

### **Interim Livestock Coordinator**

**MSU Tollgate Farm & Education Center**

February – May 2019, July 2020 – August 2021

- Supervised everyday care of goats, sheep, cattle, horses, ducks, chickens, and rabbits
- Collaborated with veterinary experts to maintain livestock health, provide routine medical care, and keep the associated IACUC records.
- Oversaw obstetric and neonate care of ewes, does and their offspring
- Marketed, developed a customer base and oversaw the sale of Tollgate's livestock and animal products
- Designed and implemented nutrition, lactation and parasite management, hoof and routine veterinary care regimens for sheep and goats
- Taught, mentored, and supervised Tollgate Farm 4-H Club youth as they fitted and showed does for show at the Oakland County Fair and Michigan State Fair
- Contributed livestock expertise to the Tollgate educational staff as they designed and implemented agricultural education programs

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Stokes, S., Jackman-Wheatner, A. (2024) Time Management Workbook for Food & Farm Businesses. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. <https://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/timemanagement-workbook-for-food-farm-businesses>

Rahrig, J., Bolan-Williamson, J., Stokes, S., & Lower J. (2023) *Loan Readiness Toolbox for Food and Farm Businesses*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. <https://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/loan-readiness-toolbox-for-food-and-farm-businesses>

Stokes, S. (2021). Mnomen: Assessing the Feasibility of Anishinaabe-Centered Wild Rice Restoration on University of Michigan Properties [PDF]. In *deepblue.lib.umich.edu*. <https://doi.org/10.7302/964>

Stokes, S., Goode, M., & Michener, D. (2021). *Decolonizing University Land and Water Management: Can Anishinaabe-Centered Mnomen (Wild Rice) Restoration Help Restore Right Relations between the University of Michigan and Indigenous Communities?* Gala. <https://www.learn gala.com/cases/a78487b6-9a5f-4116-bf09-b60214b31a44/3>

## CERTIFICATIONS

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### [FAMACHA Instructor Certification](#)

University of Maryland Extension

October 6, 2022

Online

### **Dairy Herd Improvement Certified Tester**

Langston University Dairy Herd Improvement Program

January 1, 2022 – 2025

### [FAMACHA Certification](#)

University of Maryland Extension

January 20, 2022

Online

## RESEARCH

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### [Kawe Gidaa-naanaagadawendaamin Manoomin/Psin](#)

University of Minnesota

September 2021 – January 2023

*Tuition & Full Time Graduate Research Stipend*

Served as a PhD student researcher on the “First We Must Consider Wild Rice” collaborative: a group of Tribal, inter-tribal and University of Minnesota researchers and practitioners dedicated to understanding and promoting tribal sovereignty and cultural values in wild rice restoration, management, and policies. Disenrolled and left the research collaborative after deciding to pursue careers opportunities outside of academia.

### [Anishinaabe-Centered Mnomen Restoration](#)

University of Michigan

November 2019 – May 2021

*Grant Funded*

As primary investigator for this master’s practicum, worked to implement the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative* by building strong, reciprocal relationships with tribal communities which allows for a collaborative assessment of the ecological and social feasibility of Anishinaabe-centered Mnomen (wild rice) restoration on University of Michigan properties.

### **Tribal Dynamics of Wolf Management**

Michigan Technological University

Fall 2017

*Coursework*

As primary investigator prepared a senior capstone report that examined the tribal dynamics of wolf management in the 6 lower 48 states with sizable and longstanding gray wolf populations. Outlined the historical, cultural and political dynamics surrounding tribal involvement in wolf management. Presented recommendations for the implementation of wolf management, which is cooperative, scientifically sound, and cognizant of all stakeholders regardless of their socio-political status.

## GRANTS/AWARDS

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### **2021-2022 Natural Resources Science & Management Fellowship**

Full departmental Support for the first year of Ph.D. studies at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities

March 1, 2021

### [UM Graham Sustainability Institute Catalyst Grant](#)

*Primary student investigator and co-author*

PIs: David Michener, Rebecca Hardin, Gregory Dowd, Benjamin Secunda, Scott Herron & Kyle Whyte  
\$10,000 in support of the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative*

May 21, 2020

### **UM Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant**

\$1,500 in support of the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative*

May 11, 2020

### **UM SEAS Practicum Funding**

\$1,500 in support of the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative*

April, 2020

**Nanette R LaCrosse Student Prize**  
\$1,000 Presented by the Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum  
**CONFERENCES & TRAININGS**

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March, 2020

**Small Ruminant Field Necropsies**  
Dr. Mary Smith

October 6, 2022  
Syracuse, NY

**Goat Reproduction & Artificial Insemination Workshop**  
Betsy Hodge, Fauna Smith DVM & Brandon Snyder

October 5, 2022  
Syracuse, NY

**ADGA National Convention**  
New York State Dairy Goat Breeders Association

October 1-7, 2022  
Syracuse, NY

**Birth Management for Sheep & Goats**  
Michigan State University Extension

January 4, 11, 17 & 25, 2022  
Online

**Artificial Insemination Workshop**  
Lee Ann Berlund-Fosdick, DVM, PhD

November 11 & 12, 2021  
Tucson, AZ

**ADGA National Convention**  
Southern Arizona Dairy Goat Association

November 8 – 14, 2021  
Tucson, AZ