

# How to do a virtual consultation

## Why do a virtual consultation?

Shortage of time, covid19, distance to travel – there are many reasons why a virtual consultation might be a preferred option to a face to face meeting. As one advisor told me - his preference for virtual consultations was because of time saved “I can save 2 hours travel for a 45 minute consult”.



*Check these steps to run an effective virtual consultation.*

### 1. What's needed

Critical for a virtual consultation is good wifi or good cell phone signal. Stable and adequate internet or cell phone signal (with data) will determine the video quality and so the amount and speed of data transfer.

Virtual consultations can be implemented with standard programs (e.g., FaceTime; Facebook live, etc.).

### 2. Tips for success

#### 1. Set up.

- a. Identify the type of questions and whether a virtual consultation is an option.

e.g., looking at a weed problem, troubleshooting an electric fence, etc. can be well suited to a virtual visit. On the other hand, a virtual property tour to help develop a farm/ranch management plan might be harder.

- b. Identify how you will communicate.

Options<sup>1</sup> include: FaceTime, Facebook live, Instagram live...  
Note cell and/or other contact details.

- c. Check whether connectivity will likely be adequate (i.e., will there be “good” wifi or cell coverage in the field location)

#### 2. Confirm time, date and contact numbers

3. **Pretest the system.** Do a quick trial run to ensure familiarity with the technology and adequate signal or coverage.

#### 4. Make the call

5. **Follow-up** – Be prepared to share links to resources that might help – e.g., UC IPM, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> There are likely many other options – nothing is implied by inclusion or omission of options.