



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Graduate Student in Dairy Cattle Lameness Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

The Department of Production Animal Health of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in collaboration with partners, is seeking a graduate student (MSc or PhD) with interest in the dairy cattle industry for a project on dairy cattle lameness.

Project description:

Lameness has a negative impact on the cow's productivity and longevity, thereby reducing the overall efficiency of dairy production. There is also a significant effect of lameness on animal welfare. Reduced cow comfort associated with poor flooring, lying stall, and feeder design and management are important risk factors for a high prevalence of lameness. Many recommendations are now available to Canadian producers about good facility design and management. We have formed an expert group (Alberta Lameness Reduction Initiative LRI) that has identified 40 actions point to address and support lameness reduction in our province. The first project we would like to initiate is based on evaluation of applicability of different technologies supporting lameness diagnosis. The next step is a large longitudinal trial deepening our understanding of risk factors for lameness and focusing on prevention strategies.

What are we looking for:

Applicants with a DVM degree or degree in animal science or a related field will be considered. The preferred candidate needs to be a good team player with excellent communication skills, both within the academic as well as the non-academic setting. Ability to work independently with good communication (oral and written) skills in English is needed. Experience with dairy cattle handling and basic knowledge on hoof health and cow comfort is essential or the ability and interest to learn. This graduate student position will provide the candidate of choice with strong skills in epidemiology and production animal health. Graduate stipend will be commensurate with the level of education and experience, but is 22k (MSc) and 23k (PhD). The graduate student will be part of a vibrant graduate student environment of several principle investigators collaborating to ensure the best learning opportunities.

UCVM is a new and dynamic veterinary faculty in Western Canada that is committed to strengthen the connections between animal health, public health, and the environment. UCVM faculty works across disciplines and Departments, fostering collaborative research, teaching and service. Descriptions of the Faculty and its departments can be found on the UCVM website (www.vet.ucalgary.ca). The University of Calgary is a research-intensive, comprehensive university that supports innovation in research, education and service to the community.

Calgary is a vibrant, multicultural city with a population of 1,300,000. It is located near the Rocky Mountains, Banff National Park and Lake Louise and offers an enormous opportunity for outdoor activities both in winter and summer.

For additional information please contact Dr. Karin Orsel (Karin.orsel@ucalgary.ca). Review of applications will start asap. Interested individuals should submit a current curriculum vitae and an outline of research interests and relevant experiences along with the names of three referees to:

Dr. Karin Orsel

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<http://wcm.ucalgary.ca/orselresearch/>