

Re: Graduate Research Assistant (MSc) or Visiting Research Scholar, Dairy Cattle Reproduction

Description: Two Graduate Research Assistant (MSc) or Visiting Research Scholar positions are available in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at the Kansas State University, under guidance of Dr. Victor Gomez Leon. Our developmental group focuses on combining fundamental physiology with applied reproduction and technologies used in dairy cattle.

Duties and Responsibilities: Contribute to outreach activities, lead research and extension projects, collect samples, perform data analysis, assist with student training, and prepare manuscripts for publication. Salary will be negotiable. Travel to farms should be expected.

Position 1: Collaboration with University of Wisconsin through a USDA/NIFA AFRI grant focused on novel theories on follicle selection. Aims to elucidate granulosa cells' transcriptomic changes in follicle selection and to diminish the frequency of double ovulation in lactating cows.

Position 2: Projects will focus on (1) testing strategies to increase the reproductive performance of dairy cattle or ease its management; (2) developing and testing programs to select dairy heifers; (3) working with emerging technologies such as beef on dairy and activity monitors.

Minimum requirements:

- Self-motivated, organized, detail-oriented, and enthusiastic about research
- Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences or related field
- Previous experiences in research and strong background in dairy cattle reproduction
- Strong skills in ovarian ultrasound and follicle aspirations on a large number of dairy cows
- Meet the admission requirements for GRA set by Kansas State University

Preferred qualifications: Capacity for creativity, designing and conducting experiments, critical thinking to analyze and discuss data, strong written, communication, Excel, and statistical skills.

How to apply: Please send the following documents to vgomezleon@ksu.edu with the subject GRA/USDA application: (1) One-page cover letter including research interests, future goals, and how you fit the position; (2) Curriculum vitae including names and contact information for two professional references. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Why join us: Kansas State University is located in Manhattan, KS, which has a current population of more than 55,000 residents. The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry has about 1,200 undergraduates and 100 graduate students and is the largest department in Kansas State University's College of Agriculture. The Kansas dairy industry has grown significantly during the past 25 years. As an example, from 2014 to 2020, the state of Kansas had a ~20% increase in the number of milking cows and a ~30% increase in total milk production. The Kansas State University Dairy Teaching and Research Center has one of the highest-producing university herds in the nation, facilitating the development of a high-quality research and extension program.