2 PhD Student Positions Available – Ruminant Nutrition and Food System Sustainability

Department of Animal and Poultry Science
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Virginia Tech

Two PhD student positions are available in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at Virginia Tech. One position will focus on post-absorptive implications of absorbed volatile fatty acid profiles and the other position will evaluating the role of livestock in sustainable food production systems.

The nutrition position will focus on the role that absorbed volatile fatty acid profiles play in governing insulin sensitivity, basal metabolic rate, and muscle and adipose gene expression. The candidate for the nutrition position will be expected to: design, obtain approval for, plan, and conduct animal trials along with a group of other student investigators; collect, analyze, summarize and report data obtained in experiments; and communicate results regularly in papers and scientific presentations.

The food system sustainability position will focus on evaluating how byproduct feeds impact sustainability of livestock production systems, and on the role dairy cattle play in developing a sustainable and healthy food production system. The candidate for this position will be expected to: design, plan, develop, and evaluate mathematical models of environmental and economic attributes of livestock production systems; collect, analyze, summarize and report data obtained in simulations; and communicate results regularly in papers and scientific presentations.

Both positions include tuition and a competitive stipend for a 3 year term.

Required qualifications include:

- A B.S. and M.S. in animal science, agronomy, mathematics, economics, or a related discipline;
- Minimum verbal and quantitative GRE scores of 150 and analytical GRE score of 3;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Ability to demonstrate self-motivation and a strong work ethic; and,
- For non-native English speakers, a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on the PBT version of 80 on the iBT version.

Preferred qualifications include:

- Experience working with cattle in a research setting;
- Experience working in a laboratory setting;
- Demonstrated skills in mathematical modeling, data handling, and computing; and,
- History of presenting and publishing scientific material

Interested candidates should contact **Dr. Robin White** at rrwhite@vt.edu with a statement of interest, GRE scores, a curriculum vitae, and 3 professional references. Please include the position you are interested in as the subject of your email. Positions available any time after 6/1/2018, start date negotiable for the right candidate.