

Position: Graduate Research Assistant and Student Intern
Dairy cattle reproduction

March 24, 2021

Description: Two positions are available for Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) or Student Intern under the guidance of Dr. Victor Gomez León at the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University. We seek to integrate research into a collaborative extension program to meet the needs of dairy producers. The research scope of this developing program includes applied and fundamental reproduction in dairy cattle, such as control/ manipulation of ovarian dynamics and reproductive management strategies.

Project description: Successful candidates will have the opportunity to combine fundamental physiology knowledge with applied reproduction and technologies used in cattle. For example, (1) testing reproductive strategies on specific dairy cattle phenotypes that can be identified with automatized activity monitors; (2) developing and testing novel traits to select dairy heifers; and (3) strategies to induce early CL regression in non-pregnant animals. Other opportunities may include the study of the interaction of nutrition-reproduction. All experiments involve collecting data in the field and performing hormonal assays in the lab. Students will be exposed to additional training activities on reproductive biotechnologies and contact with the dairy industry.

Duties and responsibilities: The successful individuals should be highly motivated and able to work in a group while still independent. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Availability to travel and participate in research projects in the field
- Collaborate in outreach activities
- Participate in departmental seminars and journal clubs

Minimum requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or current student in Animal Sciences or related field
- Strong interest or experiences in research and dairy cattle industry
- Interest in understanding reproductive physiology and reproductive biotechniques applied to cattle
- Excellent written and oral skills
- Meet the admission requirements for GRA or Student Intern set by Kansas State University

Preferred qualifications:

- Previous experience in research and/or in the dairy cattle industry
- Critical thinking to analyze and discuss data
- Expertise working with cattle and reproductive biotechniques (transrectal ultrasound, doppler, OPU)

How to apply: Please send the following documents or questions to vgomezleon@ksu.edu with subject: GRA application. Review of applications will continue until the positions are filled.

- One-page cover letter including research interests, future goals, and how you fit the position
- Curriculum vitae including names and contact information for two professional references

Why join us: Kansas State University is located in Manhattan, KS, with a current population of more than 55,000 residents. The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry is the largest department (more than 1,200 undergraduates and approximately 100 graduate students) in Kansas State University's College of Agriculture. For more than 100 years, the university dairy program has served the Kansas dairy industry, which has grown significantly during the past 25 years. Moreover, from 2014 to 2020, the state of Kansas had a ~20% increase in the number of milking cows (170,000) and a ~30% increase in total milk production (4,028 million pounds). Kansas State University has the leading dairy program in the High Plains region and one of the largest university milk sheds in the nation. The Kansas State University Teaching and Research Center has one of the highest producing university herds in the nation, which has allowed high-quality research over the last decades.