

JOB DESCRIPTION

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| JOB TITLE: | Contract Research Officer – Meat and Dairy Market Research (Ref: ROMD/AFRC/0213) |
| POST TYPE: | Temporary Funded Contract post, the indicative duration of which is 18 months months, subject to contract. A panel may be formed from which future similar vacancies may be filled. |
| TITLE OF PROJECT: | Multi-breed genomic selection in dairy and beef cattle (Breed Quality) – RMIS 6407 |
| LOCATION: | Teagasc, Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15. |
| REPORTING TO: | Head of Department and/or other nominated manager |
| GRADE/SALARY: | Research Officer, with a starting salary of €31,729 per annum. The current salary scale is €31,729 to €56,430. Starting pay will be at the minimum of the scale per Government Circular E100/8/82. Exceptional circumstances may apply for candidates with current or previous service in the public sector (including Teagasc). Remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government Policy. |

BASIC FUNCTION:

This post provides an excellent opportunity for a researcher with experience in the marketing and/or agri-business field to expand their knowledge and skill base through direct interaction with national and European food companies (including retailers), food industry support agencies and research scientists in the area of meat and dairy quality. The successful candidate will join a multi-disciplinary team to identify product quality attributes of importance in the market place so as to incorporate product quality into Irish national breeding objectives for beef, dairy and sheep. S/he will combine interviews with key stakeholders in the market place with a literature review to identify important meat and dairy quality attributes and, through stakeholder engagement, assign ranking to such quality attributes to guide technical research along the supply chain. Collaborating with technical colleagues to integrate market-based information with technical capabilities will be an important aspect of this post.

BACKGROUND:

Teagasc, the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority, are seeking a suitably qualified and motivated candidate for a research position within their Rural Economy Development Programme. As part of a multi-disciplinary team, the appointee to this Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine funded post will collaborate with other researchers within Teagasc as well as researchers from UCC and UCD, and with the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation. The task of the appointee will be to identify important meat and dairy quality attributes and assign ranking to such quality attributes to guide technical research along the supply chain. The overall aim of the project is to identify product quality attributes of importance in the market place so as to incorporate product quality into Irish national breeding objectives for beef, dairy and sheep.

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MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop research design, protocols and research instruments in consultation with the research team
- Undertake a literature review to identify determinants of quality at various stages of the meat and dairy supply chain
- Conduct key informant interviews with relevant representative and statutory bodies, scientists and members of the supply chain (e.g. food processors and retailers) using a semi-structured questionnaire
- Analyse data, and interpret research findings, to contribute to and inform subsequent project tasks
- Collaborate with other members of the team to ensure alignment between the market and technical research
- Organize and facilitate workshops with the project team to convert identified quality attributes into measureable technical characteristics.
- Manage key relationships including, but not limited to, other members of the project team, food companies, support agencies, and other stakeholders, from the public and private sectors
- Contribute to and/or initiate peer reviewed scientific publications and contribute to overall dissemination and research outputs of Teagasc in collaboration with the research team
- Assist other members of the project team with various administrative duties associated with the co-ordination of this research project
- Assist Teagasc in meeting the commitments of the Quality Customer Service charter and action plan.
- Actively participate in the annual business planning and Performance Management Development System (PMDS) processes.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Note: The 'Essential' qualifications, skills and knowledge outlined below are 'must-have' which will be used in the shortlisting process.

| | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| QUALIFICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must have an honours Level 8 degree in marketing, agri-business or a related discipline. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A postgraduate degree and/or research experience in marketing, agribusiness or a related discipline would be a distinct advantage |
| SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent literature review, primary data collection, organizational, report writing and data analysis skills. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven record of scientific communications. • Aptitude for multidisciplinary approaches. |
| KNOWLEDGE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad understanding of issues related to the marketing of Irish food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the House of Quality framework • Technical understanding of the determinants of quality in dairy and meat • Familiarity with the dairy and meat supply chains |
| BEHAVIOUR COMPETENCIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ability to work as part of a team, including consulting, collaborating and building relationships with key stakeholders. ■ Strives for high quality of work and demonstrates commitment to the programme. ■ Ability to communicate effectively to enable knowledge and technology transfer. | |
| ELIGIBILITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For operational reasons, current serving permanent staff members of Teagasc cannot normally be considered for funded contract posts advertised through open public competition. | |

How to Apply

A detailed job description and application form for this position can be accessed on the Teagasc Website at www.teagasc.ie/careers

Completed application forms should be submitted by email to teagascjobs@cpl.ie no later than **12 midnight on Monday 4th March 2013**.

Please state relevant reference code in all correspondence. Teagasc is an equal opportunities employer. Canvassing will disqualify.

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