

TEAGASC PHD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP & UCD PHD OPPORTUNITIES

Two PhD opportunities

- i) **Assessing calf welfare on Irish farms** (Walsh Scholarship Ref Number 2023278)
- ii) **Developing a toolkit to address emerging calf health issues** (UCD)

Background

Ireland is a net exporter of beef and dairy products; ensuring (inter)national consumers hold Irish products in high regard is critical for the future success of our industry. Consumer attitudes and preferences are evolving, and people are demanding greater assurances regarding animal welfare. While relatively high standards of calf welfare prevail in Ireland (Barry et al., 2020) it is essential that this be at least maintained but ideally improved to underpin Ireland's status as a country with high welfare standards. This project will inform and direct calf health and welfare standards, which will aid in futureproofing the industry, enabling Ireland to become a world leader in calf welfare. This project will involve travelling to farms to assess farmer attitudes, current feeding and health management practices and farm infrastructure. Based on the results and issues identified a suite of targeted calf management interventions will be assessed to ascertain their effect on improving calf health and welfare.

Requirements

Applicants should have or expect to have a degree in an appropriate discipline (Agricultural Science, Veterinary Medicine or another related discipline). The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and enthusiastic. The PhD Scholarship is a joint research project between Teagasc Moorepark, Co. Cork and University College Dublin Veterinary School. The student will be primarily based at Teagasc Moorepark and registered at UCD, for a 4-year PhD degree programme. This graduate programme enables the PhD student to develop into an independent researcher at the highest international level. The student will work under the supervision of Dr. Emer Kennedy (Teagasc) and Dr. Catherine McAloon (UCD). Initially the PhD scholar is appointed for a period of 18 months. Continuation for another 30 months will be based on performance evaluation. A minimum level of competency in English is required.

Award

The scholarship funding is €25,000 per annum plus a contribution to fees up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum (total scholarship funding is €31,000) and is tenable for 4 years. The scholarship will commence in early 2025.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a CV, including the contact details of at least two referees, and covering letter detailing their motivation, qualifications, experience and to Emer Kennedy emer.kennedy@teagasc.ie

Closing date 13th December 2024