

University Dairy Researcher

Position Description

A university dairy researcher has both teaching and research components in an area of expertise related to the dairy industry. They research dairy management practices that increase productivity while maintaining high levels of cow health and fertility. A researcher could also examine genetic selection, breeding, feeding, management of dairy cattle, dairy foods (health, chemistry, microbiology, processing or engineering), animal nutrition, genetics/genomics, behavior/well-being and lactation. They may design, carry out and analyze experiments to determine effects of different kinds of feed and environmental conditions on quantity, quality and nutritive value of milk produced. Development of improved practices in care and management of dairy herds and use of improved buildings and equipment is often a focus of dairy researchers.

They spend most of their days in an office or laboratory and spend time on research farms collecting data and travel both domestically and internationally for conferences and research presentations. An important teaching component for a university researcher is advising and encouraging students.

Education Requirements

- A bachelor's degree in agricultural science or a relevant field of study is required.
- A Master's and doctoral degrees are often pursued.
- Coursework should include topics in bovine health and breeding, agricultural systems and animal nutrition.
- Dairy science students who want to become researchers should also study experimental design and statistics.

Helpful Skill Set

- Creativity and an analytical mindset.
- Managerial and organizational skills.
- Experiences in the applied dairy or agriculture industry are helpful.
- Good communication skills.
- Strong computer, math and reading skills.

Develop a Network

- Getting involved with research projects will help develop a good network for this job.
- Join a college dairy science club or judging team.

Gain Work Experience

- Serve as a teaching assistant or research assistant.
- Seek part-time job in lab on campus.

Keywords

geneticist, teacher, researcher, scientist



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