Position description

The Testroet laboratory is searching for a highly motivated Ph.D. student. The acceptable student will be offered three years of support, which includes a competitive stipend, tuition waver, and health insurance. The ideal candidate will be independent and will receive the opportunity to assist in laboratory setup as well as development of research plans related to coordination of metabolism in the periparturient (i.e., transition) dairy cows. In addition, the selected candidate will be offered the opportunity to collaborate with scientists at the University of Vermont Medical School. The primary research goals of the laboratory are to integrate research that can be applied to addressing practical on-farm prevention of transition cow diseases while addressing diseases of importance to human health. Our primary interest is in prevention of hepatic lipidosis (i.e., fatty liver) in the transition dairy cow. Through understanding the mechanistic development of fatty liver in the dairy cow, we believe that we can address a practical and economically important on-farm disease as well as further our understanding of development of a prevalent disease in obese humans (Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease). We are recruiting a student who is interested in supporting the "One Health Mission" of the University of Vermont. Therefore, candidates who have interest in integrative research that has both application to animal and human health utilizing both basic and applied research are encouraged to apply. Our laboratory is equipped to accomplish nutrigenomic research utilizing both cell culture and biochemical analyses, and our campus is equipped with a dairy research facility. Experience in both basic bioscience techniques and applied animal research is preferred, although qualified candidates will be considered if they are interested in furthering their strength in comprehensive research and fulfilling the "One Health Mission". Because the Testroet laboratory is focused on training independent researchers, the ideal candidate will develop an independent but collaborative research plan and will be expected to contribute to application for funding opportunities after completion of core-course work.

Qualifications: Applicants should have an M.S. degree in animal science, nutrition, biochemistry, biology or related field, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, although exceptional undergraduate students are encouraged to apply. For admittance, GRE test scores should be above 300 (combined scores), and a minimum TOEFL score of 100 is required (for applicants whose native language is not English).

Preferred Skills: A working knowledge of nutritional metabolism and a desire to integrate both basic and applied nutrition is ideal. Additionally, applicants should have good communication skills and ability to work as part of a team.

Interested applicants must submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of research interest and goals, transcripts, and names and contact information of two professional references to eric.testroet@wsu.edu.

University of Vermont: Founded in 1791, UVM is consistently ranked as one of the top public universities in the United States. The University is located in Burlington, Vermont, also rated as one of the best small cities in the United States. The greater Burlington area has a population of about 200,000 and enjoys a panoramic setting on the shores of Lake Champlain, between the Green Mountains of Vermont and the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Burlington and the surrounding area provide an environment rich in cultural and recreational activities for individuals and families, with multiple opportunities for interactions with local industry and communities.