



MSc student position available in Beef Calf Health Management

Research Area:

The successful candidate will conduct research investigating the perceptions of cow-calf producers and beef veterinarians about on-farm parasite control strategies for pre-weaned beef calves. Understanding beef producers' motivators and barriers to using disease control strategies is essential to optimizing cattle health, well-being, and productivity. This study will include a systematic review +/- meta-analysis of the literature pertaining to parasite control in pre-weaned beef calves, a survey to quantify how operations manage parasite burden, and interviews with producers and veterinarians to gain an in-depth understanding of what motivates their decisions and what barriers exist to implementing alternative practices. The successful applicant will work closely with a PhD student on this project, be a part of a team of graduate students investigating beef cattle health and welfare, and have opportunity to assist in a variety of other beef cattle research projects.

Program and Place of Work: Funding is available for a Master of Science (MSc) degree in the Veterinary Medical Sciences program (VMS) through the Department of Production Animal Health in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (<http://vet.ucalgary.ca/graduate/>) at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This project will be conducted in collaboration with Dr. John Gilleard in the Department of Comparative Biology and Experimental Medicine. Research will be carried out in Alberta, Canada, but remote enrollment may be temporarily feasible as required by COVID-related restrictions.

Qualifications: Candidates should have a Bachelor's degree in animal science, agriculture, biology, or similar field, or a professional degree in veterinary medicine. The successful candidate will have a strong aptitude for communication and teamwork and have demonstrated good academic performance in their undergraduate program. Individuals with an agricultural background and/or training in parasitology or epidemiology are highly encouraged to apply. A current and valid driver's license is required.

Salary: Candidates must be academically competitive and will be expected to apply for external funding. Minimum stipend is \$25,000/yr. For outstanding students, internal top-up award opportunities are available on a competitive basis.

Start Date: The positions would start January 2021 with funding for 2 years.

Application Interest: Interested candidates should send by email (c.windeyer@ucalgary.ca) a current curriculum vitae, a scanned copy of transcript or listing of course grades, names and contact information for two references, and a cover letter describing your interest in the project.

For further information about the above MSc research opportunities, please contact Dr. Claire Windeyer at c.windeyer@ucalgary.ca.