

POSITION: ASSISTANT CELLCHECK PROGRAMME MANAGER

The Organisation

Animal Health Ireland is a not-for-profit, public-private partnership, tasked with controlling livestock diseases not subject to international regulation, with the objective of improving the profitability and sustainability of Irish farmers and the agri-food sector. The advice provided by AHI is developed by a number of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and the delivery of its major programmes, including CellCheck (the national mastitis control programme), is overseen by cross-industry Implementation Groups (IGs).

The Position

Since its commencement in 2011, CellCheck has overseen a steady improvement in national Somatic Cell Count (SCC) performance toward the overall target of having 75% of the milk supplied by Irish farmers with an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or less by year end 2020. Progress to date has already yielded significant savings to both farmers and processors and a reduction in the use of in-lactation intra-mammary products. In support of this target, AHI's strategic plan (2018-2020) contains a number of strategic objectives, including reviewing industry milk quality target/goals and programme key performance indicators and facilitating the dairy industry to increase awareness and education in relation to responsible antimicrobial use, to provide on-farm mastitis problem solving services, including the development of a service provider database, required tools and additional problem solving capacity and to develop and implement a strategic plan to increase the level of engagement with milk recording in Ireland.

Due to a reduction in the working hours of the CellCheck senior Programme Manager, AHI is recruiting an assistant programme manager. Reporting to the senior Programme Manager, the successful candidate will have the opportunity to contribute significantly to the delivery of these objectives, and those of other AHI activities, building on the significant progress made to date.

Educational Requirements

Candidates must hold a degree in veterinary medicine.

Desirable Qualifications, Experience and Competencies

- A Masters or Doctoral level qualification in a relevant area.
- A strong understanding of dairying, particularly in relation to mastitis control and ongoing efforts to reduce antimicrobial usage.
- Familiarity with laboratory diagnostic techniques.
- Experience of project management, preferably in the context of delivering a large-scale animal health programme.
- Strong organisational skills, with a demonstrable ability to effectively plan, structure and prioritise work, to meet deadlines and manage time effectively.
- Experience in knowledge exchange, with a strong ability to communicate clearly and appropriately, in both writing and verbally, with a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, veterinary practitioners, industry representatives, scientists and policy makers.
- Aptitude and experience in the development and delivery of educational resources and training.
- An understanding of the interaction between various interest groups and stakeholders in the Irish agri-food sector and a demonstrable ability to work effectively with such groups.
- A demonstrable ability to advocate effectively on behalf of the employing organisation and to promote the achievement of its objectives with external parties.
- A demonstrable ability to work co-operatively and effectively as part of a team.
- A demonstrable record of originating action aimed at resolving problems.
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Role Description

To assist the senior CellCheck Programme Manager, and AHI, to:

- Co-ordinate the activities and outputs of the CellCheck TWG.
- Develop detailed, science-based factual resources for mastitis and Somatic Cell Count (SCC) control and reduction in antimicrobial usage.
- Develop tools, including IT resources, to support informed decision making by farmers and service providers in relation to the control of mastitis and SCC, and antimicrobial use on individual farms.
- Writing for programme communications, including regular technical articles, programme reports and relevant international peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Develop, inform and support policy options for national or regional approaches for the control of mastitis and SCC and increased adoption of milk recording.
- Assist with the development and delivery of programmes of continuing education and knowledge exchange.
- Make presentations at events such as road shows, farmer and veterinary meetings, fairs, exhibitions and conferences.
- Identify deficiencies in research and make proposals as to how to address these.
- Champion the work of AHI to livestock farmers, relevant service providers, and the agri-food sector generally.
- Foster a collaborative approach to mastitis control within the industry, through various work programme activities.
- Contribute to the development of other AHI programmes and to the corporate development of the organisation, as required.

Job Location

Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim (with potential for remote working).

Contract Duration

The contract will be for an initial duration of 2 years, with the potential for renewal.

Salary

€56,000 – €67,200.

Selection Process

Candidates are required to submit a cover letter providing evidence of how they satisfy the educational requirements and desirable qualifications, experience and competencies described above, including two referees, and curriculum vitae to Greg O' Hanlon (greg@consultghi.com).

Further Information

Requests for information in relation to this post, or to discuss further (in confidence) should be directed to Greg O' Hanlon (greg@consultghi.com)

Closing Date

Closing Date for Applications Friday 13th September.

REFERENCE: AHI/CCKAPM



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