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**Field Officer**

Agricultural Research (Ruminant Livestock)

**Information Pack and Application Form**

Dear Applicant,

**Ref: Field Officer**

Thank you for your interest in the position of Field Officer at AgriSearch.

The information pack includes the following documents which you should refer to when completing your application:

* Job description
* Person specification
* Application form.

Completed forms should be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 10th July 2017. .

Interviews will be held on Friday 28th July 2017.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in AgriSearch. We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully,

Jason Rankin

General Manager

**The Company**

The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council (T/A AgriSearch), is a charitable organisation whose mission is to drive innovation and sustainability in ruminant livestock farming, as a trusted, valued conduit of knowledge and innovation based on sound science, and widely applied research.

**The role: Field Officer**

AgriSearch is recruiting a Field Officer for a fixed period of no more than 12 months to assist with the delivery of a research project.

Recent reports have indicated the average grass utilisation yields on dairy and beef farms throughout Northern Ireland are 7.5 and 4.1 kg DM/ha/year respectively, significantly lower than the genetic potential of modern day grass varieties. Through a detailed on-farm survey of farmers (dairy and beef) and industry stakeholders from across Northern Ireland this project aims to better understand the barriers that have limited both grass production and utilisation at a farm level. Specifically, the project will:

1. Evaluate current farmer attitudes towards grassland production and the utilisation of grass into either milk or beef production
2. Define the reasons behind the decline in milk / beef from forage production
3. Understand the factors affecting farmers attitudes to grassland production and utilisation
4. Evaluate farmers’ knowledge on the quality of grass and ideal pre/post grazing heights
5. Identify the major perceived challenges farmers face when seeking to improve milk and beef production from forage, and grassland efficiency
6. Consider the suitability of milk/beef from forage as an industry figure to benchmark technical efficiency
7. Identify any future research requirements to improve grass and utilisation across Northern Ireland dairy and beef farms.

**Purpose of Role:**

* To assist in the design and testing of a survey on grassland management across the Northern Ireland’s dairy and beef sectors
* To identify potential candidates (farmers and industry stakeholders) for interview
* To conduct face-to-face interviews with dairy and beef farmers and industry stakeholders from across Northern Ireland
* To enter and collate the data from the surveys into a database
* Prepare database for statistical analysis

**Person Specification:**

**Essential**

* Have the right interpersonal and communication skills to gain the trust of a diverse range of people.
* Knowledge of the ruminant livestock sectors
* Excellent organizational skills
* Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office (especially word and excel)
* GCSE (or equivalent) in Mathematics and English at grade C or above
* As travel throughout Northern Ireland (at times in remote rural areas) is essential the successful candidate must have a full valid driving licence and access to a form of transport that will permit them to meet the requirements of the post in full.

**Desirable**

* Qualification in or currently engaged in a third level course on agriculture, social sciences or related subject

**Time:** 37.5 hours per week

**Based at:** Hillsborough but with frequent travel throughout Northern Ireland to conduct surveys

**Salary:** Minimum wage / living wage (as appropriate to age) + mileage

**APPLICATION FORM**

|  | Personal Details |
| --- | --- |
| Full name |  |
| Address incl. post code |  |
| Previous address |  |
| Home telephone no. |  |
| Mobile telephone no. |  |
| Email address |  |

| **QUALIFICATIONS** |
| --- |
| **(including details of any course currently being undertaken)**  [Should include evidence of GCSE (or equivalent) in Maths and English] |
|  |

**CAREER / EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Please enter detail of your career / employment history, beginning with your present or most recent position.

| Company | Job title | Achievements and duties |
| --- | --- | --- |
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Do you have a valid driving license and access to a form of transport which will permit you to meet the requirements of the post in full?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

In no more than 300 words for each criterion, please demonstrate how you meet the essential criteria through recent (within the last 5 years) experience. Please provide specific examples.

| 1. Knowledge of the ruminant livestock sector |
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| 3. Good interpersonal and communication skills *(Please provide specific examples)* |
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| 4. Solid organisational skills. *(Please provide specific examples clearly setting out the role you played, the contribution you made, and the outcome achieved)* |
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| 5. Excellent IT ability, including Microsoft Office (especially Word, Excel and PowerPoint) |
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**Referees.**

Please provide details of 2 referees we may contact in relation to your application.

It is preferable that one referee is your present or most recent employer. Referees will not be contacted until interviews are completed and an offer of appointment is made. Referees should not be related to you.

| Name, company and position | Capacity in which known to the candidate (work colleague, friend etc) | Contact details  (Email / phone) |
| --- | --- | --- |
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|  |  |  |

I declare the above information to be complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

I have personally completed the application form.

SIGNED : .................................................................DATE : ……………………………………..

Thank you for completing this application. Please return either by email to:

[jason@agrisearch.org](mailto:jason@agrisearch.org) or by post to:

Jason Rankin

General Manager

AgriSearch

Innovation Centre

Large Park

Hillsborough

County Down

BT26 6DR

**Completed application forms must be received no later than noon Monday 10th July 2017**

By signing and returning this Application Form, you consent to AgriSearch using and keeping information about you, provided by you or third parties, such as referees relating to your application for future employment.