



Potential M.Sc. or Ph.D. in Cow Comfort/Lameness

The housing we provide dairy cows should allow them access to resources important for good health and production, such as access to feed and a comfortable area to lie down. Moreover, housing should not cause disease or other health risks like injuries and lameness. Previous research has confirmed that cow comfort has a large impact on lameness and other aspects of cow health, which in turn affects both cow welfare and longevity.

Lameness is one of the most prevalent and costly maladies affecting the dairy industry today. How the housing system is designed and managed can affect cow comfort, potentially increasing lameness. There is a growing body of work reporting the prevalence of lameness on dairy farms using free stall housing in North America and risk factors that contribute to lameness. However, reliable assessment of cow comfort on commercial open lot farms is scarce. The proposed project will involve documenting the status of cow comfort in relation to housing design and lameness on open lot dairy farms in northern Mexico.

Applicants must have a degree related to Agriculture (e.g. Animal Science, Dairy Science, Agronomy, Veterinary Medicine) with a first class standing, and must have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Spanish. Previous work experience working in open lot dairies in Mexico will be considered an asset. The anticipated start date is January 1, 2012. Review of applications will begin on September 1, 2011 and will continue until the position is filled.

Interested applicants are requested to send an expression of interest, curriculum vitae and two letters of reference to Drs. Marina von Keyserlingk (nina@mail.ubc.ca) or Dan Weary (danweary@mail.ubc.ca).

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