Postdoctoral Scholar – Parasite contributions to methane production in cow-calf operations

The Veterinary Entomology lab of Dr. Edwin Burgess at the University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology, is seeking a highly independent postdoctoral scholar to develop and execute study designs on a USDA-NIFA-funded project that will address how animal parasites contribute to methane production in cow-calf systems. This position will provide ample opportunities to develop research questions related to climate change, thermal biology, parasite control, pesticide resistance, and surveillance, to name a few. Responsibilities will include (1) managing pastured cow-calf treatment groups, (2) quantifying ectoparasites on animals (mainly filth flies) and endoparasites in rumen collections and manure pats, (3) assisting in methane and sulfur hexafluoride collections from animals, (4) curating and analyzing data, writing manuscripts to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals, writing extension documents through the University of Florida EDIS system, and presenting findings at state, regional, and/or national conferences.

The postdoctoral scholar will be stationed at the North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC) in Marianna, FL. but will be able to make regular trips to and from the main campus in Gainesville, FL. as needed. The NFREC is a 1,300 acre campus focused on agronomic and beef cattle research and education. It houses the Feed Efficiency program that is the largest subtropical cattle research program in the nation. Marianna is located within an hour and a half of the Emerald Coast of Florida, home to some of the most beautiful beaches and tropical weather in the world (e.g., Panama City Beach).

The position is initially available for 12 months, with extension for at least 1 additional year pending satisfactory performance. Salary will start at $50,000/yr with full benefits. Optimal start date is July 1, 2023. Applications will be reviewed starting May 15, 2023 on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in applied entomology, animal sciences, biological sciences, or a related field, with training and experience in animal handling and livestock ectoparasites. Additional skills needed are field trial design, parasite sampling strategies, and statistical analysis. Prior knowledge of livestock ectoparasites is essential, especially their control and/or surveillance. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are required. Demonstrated proficiency with manipulation of diverse data formats, definition of study designs (e.g., designing sampling plans), and statistical data analysis is required. High preference is put on those who have R programming experience. Applicants should be highly motivated, able to perform independent research with minimal supervision, and have publications in internationally recognized English-language journals.

If interested, please email Dr. Burgess at edwinburgess@ufl.edu with the subject line “USDA Methane Postdoc.” Please include your CV, brief description of how you fit the skill requirements, and at least two references that can speak to your ability to fulfill the responsibilities listed above.