

Graduate Research Assistantship - Animal behavior and welfare

The Animal Welfare & Ethology Research (AWER) Lab at The Ohio State University is seeking a graduate student to pursue an MS in Animal Science with an emphasis on animal behavior and welfare based in Columbus, OH.

THE AWER LAB & POSITION DESCRIPTION

The AWER (pronounced like 'aware') Lab uses behavior and physiology to understand how farm animals respond to environmental, health, and management factors. We also collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to design climate-smart systems and identify barriers to better animal welfare practices. Our goal is to make society more aware of the needs of farm animals, enabling informed decisions that improve animal welfare, address challenges in responsible food production, and promote sustainability in the industry.

The successful candidate will conduct research to assess how the provision of heat abatement resources, management strategies, and varying weather conditions affect dairy cattle welfare. This project is part of a larger initiative focused on evaluating dairy producers' perceptions, attitudes, and adaptive responses to climate-related risks. Upon completion, this project has the potential to be expanded internationally. Tasks include refining and validating research methods, learning a range of laboratory and field techniques, coordinating and managing undergraduate students, performing data analyses, presenting research results at conferences, and publishing peer-reviewed work. The student will also have multiple opportunities to engage with other researchers, industry allies, and participate in activities aligned with their professional goals, such as teaching and leadership.

MS students on a graduate assistantship receive a tuition waiver, health insurance, and a monthly stipend (there are some per semester fees that are automatically deducted from the stipend). MS students will receive a waiver for instructional, general, learning tech, and non-resident fees. Students are responsible for the Student Union, Activity, Recreational, and COTA fees but these are automatically deducted from the stipend each month.

Click [here](#) to learn about five great reasons to choose Ohio State.

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in animal, biological, or veterinary sciences, or a closely related discipline. They should have a keen interest in animal behavior and welfare, as well as a strong work ethic. Basic computer knowledge (Microsoft Suite) is required, along with a willingness to learn R or other statistical programs and troubleshoot sensors and other computer applications. Additionally, candidates should be able to collect data from livestock under strenuous conditions for extended periods, navigate commercial production conditions, and conduct themselves professionally on private farms without supervision. Experience working with cattle is highly desirable, as is a valid driver's license. Candidates must also comply with the [Department of Animal Sciences Graduate Studies Program requirements](#).

ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICATIONS

To apply, please prepare a cover letter, resume/CV, unofficial transcripts, and contact information for three professional references. All materials should be submitted through <https://go.osu.edu/awerlabgrad>. The selected candidate will formally apply to the Animal Sciences Graduate Program MS degree program. Program deadline: Sep 15, 2024 (international) or Nov 1, 2024 (domestic).

Questions should be directed to Dr. Grazyne Tresoldi at Tresoldi.3@osu.edu.

If you are interested in a PhD position, please inquire directly by emailing me.

