

MSc Graduate Student in Animal Health Economics Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

The Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, is seeking an MSc graduate student with interest in economic impact of poultry diseases.

Start date: As soon as possible

Project description: The respiratory viral infection caused by infectious bronchitis (IB) virus is an economically important disease for the poultry industry in Canada, especially the table egg layer industry. IB infections may lead to mortality of young chickens and reduced egg production and quality in layer birds, limiting the profitability of poultry production. Vaccines are available but their reliability has become a concern. The emergence of new IB virus strains has led to outbreaks in vaccinated flocks resulting in significant production losses. The overall aim of our research is to quantify the impact of IB virus variants on egg production and propose mitigation strategies to reduce the impact on layer flocks in Canada. This will include isolation of major variant IB virus strains from broiler and layer flocks in Canada, as well as estimating the economic impact of the virus and formulating disease mitigation strategies.

Requirements and qualifications: This call for an MSc graduate student addresses the economic and mitigation strategies component of the project. The ideal candidate(s) will have strong interest and education/training in *at least some* of the following areas: economics, poultry production, avian viruses, decision analysis, animal production and health, microbiology, and vaccine development. For example, this could be a student with a previous degree in agricultural economics, microbiology, animal and poultry science, or veterinary medicine. A DVM degree is not required for this position. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential and evidence of this will be requested. Past engagement in research would be considered an asset. The MSc applicant must also meet the University of Calgary standards for entry to graduate school which can be found on the UC graduate studies web pages.

Program: The successful candidate will be enrolled in the Veterinary Medical Sciences graduate program. To find out more please visit: vet.ucalgary.ca/graduate. He/she will receive training in epidemiology, biostatistics, and economic impact assessment. The student will become part of a well-funded project investigating IB vaccine development aimed at improving poultry health and production in Canada.

Interested individuals should submit a current CV and an outline of research interests via email to: David C. Hall, DVM, PhD (AgrEcon), Associate Professor, Dept. Ecosystem and Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary. Email address: dchall@ucalgary.ca