



INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
COMPTON LABORATORY

Herdsperson (Milker) - Post Ref: 09/0032

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) is one of five research institutes of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and is at the forefront of research into animal diseases.

It is currently based on two sites: **Compton (near Newbury)** where this post is based and **Pirbright (near Woking)**. In total, the Institute employs some 400 staff and, at any one time, is host to up to 50 students and visiting scientists.

In July 2009 Government announced an award of £100m+ to IAH to build a new laboratory at Pirbright (to be completed by 2013) that, together with new high-containment facilities for livestock, will provide a unique campus and one of the highest-quality environments for livestock disease research anywhere in the world. In September 2009 the Institute announced its intention to close the Compton campus in 2013 and to focus only on viral diseases of livestock at the new state-of-the-art Pirbright campus.

PURPOSE

Day to day milking, milking plant hygiene, stock care and general dairy duties

JOB DESCRIPTION/DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Key duties include:

1. Milking daily within the staff roster and to follow IAH guidelines and procedures
2. Ensuring that milking procedures are followed exactly, milk hygiene standards are kept to agreed standards, and animals are promptly diagnosed and treated for any disease or condition
3. Accurately identify report and ensure prompt attention to the general health of all dairy cows.
4. The five freedoms are adhered to with respect to all animals at Mayfield farm
5. Maintenance and hygiene of the milking plant to the required standards
6. Assist with all general dairy duties on a daily basis
7. Keep up to date and accurate all records that are required by IAH and Farm Management

Other tasks include

1. Liaison with the supervising veterinarian as necessary.
2. Assistance with scientific procedures as necessary.
3. To assist in all aspects of managing the health and welfare of dairy cattle or youngstock as required.
4. To assist with any other tasks as required.

The job description is only an outline of the tasks, responsibilities and outcomes required of the role. The jobholder will carry out any other duties as may be reasonably required by his/her line manager.

The job description and personal specification may be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the changing needs of the Human Resources Division and the Institute for Animal Health.

All employees shall actively participate in the IAH-wide quality assurance system in conjunction with the Institute Quality Manager. Employees are also expected to safeguard their own health and safety and security by following IAH policies and all employees are responsible for the Health and Safety and security of staff under their management.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The post holder will need to have GCSE maths and English, or equivalent, and have good levels of numeracy and literacy. An ND in agriculture specializing in dairying would be desirable. Significant milking experience, particularly in a large dairy unit (e.g. 300+ cows) and operation of farm machinery including tractors and loaders are essential to this role. Knowledge and experience of healthcare for cows, foot trimming, calving and fertility are also highly desirable. As well as good stock skills, the successful candidate will need to have excellent attention to detail, and will ideally be computer literate. The post holder will also need to be able to organise and prioritise their daily tasks, and be able to follow written protocols accurately. Good communication skills and the ability to work both as part of a team and independently are essential.

The post holder must be able to work early mornings (e.g. pre-5am), participate in the out of hours rotas and be able to work weekends. A Valid UK driving Licence is also essential for driving farm vehicles.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information or an informal discussion of how the Institute operates and the challenges which will face the successful candidate please telephone or write to the Institute for Animal Health, Compton, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 7NN (tel. 01635 578411) or email iah.vacancies@bbsrc.ac.uk.

BENEFITS OF THE POST

The post is graded at Band B and is a Supervening Event Termination Contract based around the closure of the Compton site, which is due to be completed by 2013. Starting salary is circa £24,000 which includes guaranteed overtime, depending on qualifications and experience. On appointment, you are eligible to join the Research Council's Pension Scheme. You have the choice of either:

- an attractive, index-linked defined benefit pension scheme that currently has a 3.5% member contribution rate. The bulk of the cost of this scheme is met by the employer: or
- a stakeholder pension with a contribution from the employer. Our basic contribution is based on your age, and we pay this regardless of whether you choose to contribute anything. You do not have to contribute if you do not wish to but, if you do, we will also match your contributions up to an additional 3% of pay.

Annual leave is 32 days on appointment plus 10.5 days public and privilege holidays. The Institute has a subsidised child care scheme, staff restaurants and free parking. This role will work on the 11 day fortnight rota (approximately 43.25 hours per week).

Closing date: 21st June 2010