



DEPARTMENT OF  
**DAIRY SCIENCE**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Graduate Research Assistant

*Understanding nutrient partitioning  
and social competition to improve genomic selection  
for feed efficiency in dairy cattle*

**Description:** We seek a graduate student to conduct multi-disciplinary research with the aim of improving dairy cattle production and animal welfare. The overall objective of the project is to improve the feed efficiency of lactating dairy cows through biomarker-based assessments of nutrient partitioning and sensor-based appraisals of social competition, while advancing a multi-state effort to implement genomic predictions for feed efficiency in U.S. dairy cattle. The student will be expected to carry out all aspects of the experiments including primary data collection on dairy cattle, video analysis, lab work, data processing and statistical analysis, and manuscript preparation. The student will be co-advised by Drs. **Kent Weigel** (animal genetics), **Heather White** (nutritional physiology), and **Jennifer Van Os** (animal welfare and behavior).

### Desired qualifications and relevant experience:

- MSc with research experience in dairy science, animal science, or related field. (BSc with substantial independent research experience may be considered)
- Strong data organization and processing skills. Confidence with statistics, including ability to explore new techniques, is a necessity.
- Knowledge of and interest in U.S. dairy cattle production and management
- Experience in cattle handling, sample collection, lab work, and project management

**How to apply:** Enclose the following in an e-mail to Dr. Jennifer Van Os ([jvanos@wisc.edu](mailto:jvanos@wisc.edu)) by **March 15, 2019**. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

1. Statement of relevant experience, skills, and interests
2. CV including research publication record (for unpublished work, please indicate status, e.g., submitted, in preparation, etc.)
3. Transcript (unofficial OK)
4. GRE scores (screenshot OK)

**NOTE:** Graduate admissions to the Department of Dairy Science are conducted on a rolling basis. Candidates need not apply for admission to the UW graduate school until selected as a finalist.

*The Department of Dairy Science and the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are committed to maintaining and growing a culture embracing diversity, inclusion, and equity. We believe these values are foundational elements of our excellence and fundamental components of a positive, enriching learning and work environment for students, faculty, and staff.*

<https://dysci.wisc.edu/>