



PhD Fellowship Opportunity

An Examination of the Economics of Irish Cattle Production

Background

The Irish cattle sector is characterised by a wide variability in the economic performance of its farmers. The overall goal of this project is to provide a better understanding of the variability in the economic performance on Irish cattle farms with a view to contributing to increased profitability from cattle production in the future. The improvement of efficiency (both technical efficiency and allocative efficiency) is central to improving the overall profitability of Irish cattle farms. The specific objectives will include:

1. An examination of the variability in the production costs and the economic performance of alternative cattle farm typologies.
2. An empirical analysis of the factors affecting the variability in performance on these cattle farm typologies will be conducted.
3. An examination of the factors that contribute to efficiency in the production of beef cattle on Irish farms.

The successful candidate will join a wider research team from UCD and Teagasc examining issues related to the profitability of Irish cattle production.

Requirements

Candidates should have a first or upper second-class honours degree in agricultural science, economics, environmental science or a related subject. It is expected that the student will be based at UCD for the first two years of the PhD programme and will be based at Teagasc, Ashtown for years 3 and 4 of the PhD programme.

Award

The successful candidate will be expected to register with the School of Agriculture and Food Science at University College Dublin for a PhD degree in agricultural economics.

The fellowship provides a stipend of €21,000 with University fees paid by the student from the stipend. The Fellowship will start as soon as possible after 1st of September.

Further Information

Dr James Breen, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4

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Dr Fiona Thorne, Rural Economy and Development Programme, Teagasc, Ashtown, Dublin 15

Tel: +353 (0)1-8059753 email: fiona.thorne@teagasc.ie

Application Procedure

Submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae, including the names and addresses of at least two referees as well as a letter of interest simultaneously to:

Dr James Breen e-mail james.breen@ucd.ie

Dr Fiona Thorne email: fiona.thorne@teagasc.ie

Closing date **7th of August 2014¹**.

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