

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title of the post: Professor in Sustainable Beef and Sheep Production
(‘The ABP Chair in Sustainable Beef production’)
(3-year fixed term contract, Part time 0.5 FTE)

Department: Agriculture and Environment

Reporting to: Head of Agriculture and Environment

The University

Background

Harper Adams University is the leading UK Higher Education (HE) institution university tackling the future development of the world’s food production, animal sciences, engineering, land management and sustainable business.

Situated on a single campus in rural and scenic Shropshire, the University, and its surrounding area, provide an excellent working and living environment for staff and students alike, yet the University campus is only one hour from the UK’s second city of Birmingham. Around 3,000 HE students attend the University, primarily on sandwich courses, which include a year-long industrial placement. Undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are offered. The University also welcomes individuals who wish to undertake CPD or similar professional training to support their careers in the agri-food chain and rural industries.

The University was founded by Thomas Harper Adams in 1901 on the original farmland of the Harper Adams Estate. The University estate includes amenity areas, woodland, and a commercial farm of 205 hectares; with rented land, the total area farmed is approximately 640 hectares, spread over several locations with cereals, potatoes, forage maize and grassland carrying a dairy herd, sheep, beef, pig and poultry units.

The Privy Council awarded taught degree awarding powers to Harper Adams in 1996 and research degree awarding powers in 2006. Full University Title was granted by Her Majesty’s Privy Council in December 2012. The University changed its legal status to that of a Company Limited by Guarantee in July 2012 and remains one of a small number of Universities which are Registered Charities. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal became the University’s first Chancellor in 2013.

Academic Provision

The University offers a wide range of courses including Foundation and Honours degrees, in addition to shorter awards designed to meet the continuing professional development needs of those already in the workplace. The subjects are wide ranging and cover Agriculture, Applied Life Sciences, Animal Science and Health, Business, Countryside, Engineering, Food and Land & Property Management. The University has also focused on developing its postgraduate education and research and there are a growing number of postgraduate students at both diploma, masters and PhD level.

Harper Adams has built up an international reputation for the quality of its courses and has achieved the highest possible ratings in recent Quality Assurance Agency reviews, and holds a Gold Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) award. There is active encouragement of research and the University took part in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise. 56% of our submitted research was rated either internationally excellent or world leading and 100% was rated of international quality. Our extensive programme of research and education for professionals in the land-based and food chain sectors supports a

high profile of business and community reach-out work, short course delivery for businesses and technology transfer activities supported by strong industry links and partnerships with companies including Saputo Dairy UK (formerly Dairy Crest), CLAAS and Ice Robotics.

Current high profile projects include the Hands Free Farm – following on from the world-first Hands Free Hectare autonomous farming success; controlled traffic farming and development of laser weeding.

Recognition

Harper Adams is consistently positioned highly in a range of national ratings, performance measures and league tables.

The University has been the highest performing modern university in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide for the last five years.

In the QS World Rankings for Agriculture and Forestry published in March 2020, Harper Adams was ranked, for the third time, as first in the UK for academic reputation and second in the world for its reputation with employers.

In the 2020 Whatuni? Student Choice Awards, based on student reviews, Harper Adams won the best job prospects category for a fifth year running.

The University is one of the UK's Top 10 for student satisfaction, based on the results of the National Student Survey, and number 1 for graduate employment based on the 2020 Graduate Outcomes survey.

Facilities

Harper Adams has extensive, well-equipped facilities and is constantly investing in its campus. Facilities include a range of modern teaching facilities and an extensive library, a variety of IT suites including an engineering design centre, newly extended laboratory facilities, a field laboratory and a livestock project centre, a glasshouse complex, an agricultural engineering unit with a large covered soil working area and a number of sustainable technology installations. New facilities opened since 2017 include new laboratories, an Agri-Tech Innovation Hub and SMART Dairy Unit. A Veterinary Education Centre is due to open in 2020, in support of existing programmes and the new Harper & Keele Veterinary School. Capital funding to support the development of many of these facilities has been provided through the work of the Development Trust. The University provides a range of training and professional development opportunities via its staff development programme.

Catering and Sports Facilities

The University's Students' Union operates a small gym and squash courts that staff may use on the payment of a nominal fee. The University has an open-air swimming pool bowling green and tennis courts that are available for staff use during the summer period. A variety of University catering outlets provide access to lunch facilities on campus.

For further details about the University, please visit our website:

<http://www.harper-adams.ac.uk>

The Appointment

The person appointed will be responsible to the Head of the Agriculture and Environment Department for the discharge of his/her duties which, appropriate to experience and background, will include:

- To lead and further develop the Anglo-Beef Processors (ABP) – Harper Adams University partnership through providing Agri Sustainability consultancy and research opportunities. To include guiding, endorsing, critiquing and developing farm trial work either at the ABP Bromstead Beef Farm or Harper Adams University Farm.
- To act as the contact point and leader for the ABP-HAU partnership to deliver appropriate expertise with HAU colleagues to address sustainability research as directed and supported by ABP.
- To support and mentor an early career lecturer/researcher in Beef and Sheep production systems and also contribute to the successful teaching and assessment of a suite of undergraduate and postgraduate modules within the subject area of sustainable farm animal production with a focus on beef and sheep
- Participating in the organisation and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate student dissertations, research projects and placements focusing on opportunities within ABP
- Delivering tangible academic outputs in the form of PhD graduates and peer-reviewed journal and conference papers
- Generating external funding (from national, international, industry and other sources) to support animal production research and their wider remit in delivering sustainable and net-zero agriculture to support ABP and HAU's research sustainable livestock research programmes
- Maintaining and developing relationships with key organisations within the agriculture, animal production and animal science sectors through promoting ABP and HAU's sustainable livestock research and teaching
- Attending national and international conferences and meetings and delivering lectures and presentations to outside organisations and conferences e.g. EAAP and BSAS.
- Such other duties as may reasonably be requested by the Head of Agriculture and Environment Department

The Person

For Harper Adams to be a premier provider of higher education for the land-based industries, it is essential to have expertise to underpin our provision within this sector. This appointment represents an exciting new development by the University to expand and strengthen our animal production science teaching and research and form a strong partnership with a leading industry partner.

Suitable candidates will have a good first degree and a higher degree in farm animal production science or related area with a track record suitable for the position of Chair in Sustainable Beef Production. Candidates should have a strong profile within the animal production sector with key experience and interest in the specialist areas of beef and sheep production.

The post holder will work alongside the experienced Animal Systems team within the department and mentor an early career lecturer in the delivery of Beef and Sheep teaching and research. The successful candidate will be expected to have a close affinity with the beef sector and to enhance research within this area. The post is funded by Anglo Beef Processors (ABP) and the post holder will have the responsibility for leading and developing this partnership through coordination of activities including knowledge transfer and consultancy for ABP as part of this collaboration. The close proximity of the ABP R & D farm will facilitate further research opportunities.

The postholder will also be expected to generate research funding to support their activities in collaboration with ABP and other approved partners. The appointee will be expected to support a junior lecturing post being advertised concurrently and provide mentorship support within the general area of sustainable livestock systems.

This is a career-enhancing appointment for a highly qualified and focused academic who will be given the academic freedom to develop their own research group. The post is initially for a 3-year period but it is envisaged based on performance that this will be extended. The post requires dedication and commitment to the highest academic principles and offers a unique opportunity in a highly important subject area.

The University has a positive policy on staff development and the appointee will be encouraged to gain additional experience and/or qualifications relevant to the post.

Personal Specification

This is a research and lecturing position demanding a responsive and committed approach to the role. The post will involve working outside of normal office hours and require travelling within the UK and overseas.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	A suitable postgraduate animal production qualification or equivalent experience	Accredited as an Animal Scientist by the British Society of Animal Science (RegAnimSci), Royal Society of Biology (FRSB) or equivalent
Experience	<p>Substantial experience of animal production with a particular focus on beef and sheep within an agricultural context and evidence of an established profile</p> <p>An ability to successfully undertake undergraduate and postgraduate supervision</p> <p>An ability to work effectively in a team and to lead a research team</p>	
Knowledge/Skills	<p>Excellent written English and communication skills</p> <p>Evidence of a well-established record in research and contributions of published works at national/international conferences and in high impact peer reviewed journals within the animal production science subject area</p> <p>An ability to provide professional advice, knowledge transfer and consultancy services to the post's funders, Anglo Beef Processors (ABP)</p> <p>An ability to contribute to the successful teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate modules by providing specialist beef and sheep input when required</p>	
Personal Qualities	A full UK driving licence	

Conditions of Service

Salary The commencing salary will be up to £62,767 annum, pro rata. Salaries are paid monthly, in arrears, by credit transfer. The entry level will be dependent upon relevant experience and qualifications.

Pension The person appointed will be entitled to participate in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) subject to its terms and conditions from time to time in force, unless election is made to make private pension arrangements or to participate in the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS)

Contract of Employment The Contract of Employment will be that agreed between PCEF and the unions recognised at national level (the Polytechnics and Universities National Negotiating Committee Lecturers' Common Interest Group) on 5 December 1990, revised to comply with the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 and the provisions of the National Framework Agreement for the modernisation of pay structures. The main features are:

- participation in staff appraisal schemes;
- exclusivity of contract;
- clauses relating to patents and inventions, copyright, confidential information, pensions, sickness and maternity benefits.

A full copy of the Contract of Employment and associated conditions will be available for inspection by candidates shortlisted for interview.

Removal Expenses The lowest of three tenders for removal expenses within the United Kingdom will be refunded. If the successful candidate terminates the engagement within six months of commencement the removal expenses must be repaid to the University.

Probationary Period The appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of a twelve month probationary period.

Criminal Convictions The post involves the opportunity for access to children and young persons under the age of 18. For this reason the University is entitled to take into account any criminal convictions, cautions or impending case(s) that it considers to be relevant to this post.

The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that applicants are not entitled to withhold information about convictions which for other purposes are "spent" under the provisions of the Act.

Applicants must therefore complete the part of the application form declaring any criminal convictions and cautions from any court or police authority. The successful applicant will have to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check before an appointment can be made.

References:

Candidates should ensure that they provide full details of the name and postal address of their referees. Please include e-mail addresses and telephone numbers wherever possible.

Referees should include your present, or most recent, employer.

Application Procedure:

All applications should be completed and submitted using the Harper Adams e-Recruitment programme at <http://jobs.harper-adams.ac.uk>

To be completed no later than midnight (23:59hrs) on Sunday 24th January