



Lecturer / Senior Lecturer: Precision Livestock Production
Briefing Pack

Introduction

The Royal Agricultural University (RAU) is proud of its long-standing reputation for preparing graduates for successful careers in international agriculture and land based sectors. The RAU is seeking to appoint an academic with an ambition to improve livestock production in changing technological, environmental, economic and regulatory contexts. The main purpose of the role is to teach, research and develop the subject of Precision Livestock Production. The successful applicant will be a significant contributor to our 'Healthy Animal Systems' research group, and be expected to provide research-led teaching, particularly in the application of appropriate technology to the livestock sector.

The University

A full University since 2013, the Royal Agricultural University is an acknowledged and long established leader in education, applied research and knowledge exchange relevant to the agri-food, land management and rural enterprise sectors. The University has strong links with employers, government and a range of non-governmental organisations. The University has gone through a period of transformational change. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joanna Price, and the new leadership team have developed a strategic vision for the RAU that will ensure both relevance and sustainability.

The University offers a stimulating, supportive learning environment designed to address the changing needs of the employment market by combining high academic standards (it was awarded TEF silver) with applied research, enhanced by strong professional and industry links. As a result, the RAU produces leaders and innovators across the land-based industries. The University has four academic schools, each with a new Head of School appointed in the last two years:

- School of Agriculture, Food and the Environment (Professor Mike Gooding)
- School of Business and Entrepreneurship (Dr David Bozward)
- School of Equine Management and Science (Associate Professor Andrew Hemmings)
- School of Real Estate and Land Management (Professor Neil Ravenscroft)

This appointment is to the School of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, although the schools work closely together in research and teaching programmes. The schools offer undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes across a range of academic disciplines. Courses are managed and taught by experienced staff and specialist consultants, many of whom are also engaged in research and professional practice. Undergraduate degrees include: Rural Land Management; Real Estate; Agriculture; International Business Management; Business and Enterprise; Environment Food and Society, and International Equine and Agricultural Business Management. At postgraduate level the RAU offers a number of taught MSc programmes, including: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security; Agricultural Technology and Innovation; and Sustainable Food and Agriculture Policy. The RAU validates degrees for a number of land-based Further Education Colleges and currently has a programme of franchised degrees with one provider. Expanding our partnership programme with Colleges, Schools and other institutions, in the UK and globally, is a key strategic goal.

The University has recently established a ground-breaking partnership with the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) at the University of Gloucestershire and the University College of Estate Management (UCEM), to deliver a new suite of innovative courses focused on sustainability and sector leadership for the 21st Century. We are working closely with a range of major rural and agri-food businesses in the UK and internationally, to develop a new generation of talented and well-equipped rural asset managers and leaders

who can grasp the challenges of future sustainable and resilient business and policy development. The initiative secured HEFCE Catalyst funding.

The University has secured HEIF funding to support an exciting new Knowledge Exchange strategy. Central to this is the development of a Knowledge Hub that helps industry and professionals navigate change and uncertainty making it possible to tackle big challenges more effectively delivering societal benefit and impact. The hub provides a focus to pioneer farmer and business-led innovation, acts as an accelerator of rural enterprise, and is a centre for thought leadership for the informed development of evidence-based policy and strategic thinking.

The university has recently invested in a number of business and entrepreneur facing initiatives and facilities, including:

- The Alliston Centre, a £2.4m agri-tech innovation and enterprise hub that offers a flexible, high-tech research and office environment that supports small start-ups, established businesses and individual entrepreneurs to thrive and collaborate.
- Farm491, a £2.9m innovative new agri-tech business incubator located in the Alliston Centre, where students and business leaders can learn from expert advisers.
- John Oldacre Rural Innovation Centre, a £1.2m knowledge hub for students wishing to improve their rural skills training and an on-farm resource for the wider community.
- The Cotswold Hills Vineyard, which produces and bottles wine that are marketed commercially as a University run social enterprise.
- The Growth Hub, a £1.25m dedicated business support service for start-up companies within Gloucestershire, helping them to accelerate their growth and exploit their full potential.
- The Cultural Heritage Institute, which fosters a new understanding of the role of cultural heritage in people's quality of life, through initiatives such as heritage-led regeneration of both urban and rural environments.
- RAU is one of only six UK universities to be made a Centre of Excellence by the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (IOEE).

The School of Agriculture, Food and Environment (SAFE)

The purpose of SAFE is to deliver excellent education, research and engagement activities across environmental, agricultural and food systems. There are currently over 400 students studying within the School, on fourteen taught programmes from Certificate to MSc levels in addition to post-graduate research degrees. The Head of School, Professor Mike Gooding was appointed in April 2019 and he leads an established team of academics who have an outstanding reputation for developing pioneering farmers and innovative agriculturalists.

The School also provides a range of Knowledge Exchange activities through a menu of CPD courses and corporate training, consultancy, and through local and international networks. Academics engage in internationally recognised research which significantly informs teaching.

The Role

Post Title:	Lecturer / Senior Lecturer: Precision Livestock Production
Reports To:	Head of School: Agriculture, Food and Environment
Location:	Cirencester, Gloucestershire
Term:	Fulltime Permanent
Responsibility for:	Teaching innovative Livestock Production and advancing the discipline through research and knowledge exchange
Salary:	Grade 8/9: £33,797 - £49,553 per annum

The Purpose

The role is to teach, research and develop the subject of Livestock Production. The necessary expertise for this position will have been acquired through academic practice and also, ideally, through experience in or with the industry.

The appointee will be expected to teach across our undergraduate and postgraduate courses, will possess an excellent understanding of the subject area and a proven ability to communicate this knowledge to others. You will contribute to the management, administration, coordination and development of relevant parts of the teaching portfolio. The successful applicant will join our Research Group in *Healthy Animal Systems* which has Professorial leadership from David Main and Meriel Moore-Colyer.

As a member of Academic Board you will have an opportunity to help shape and deliver change as the University develops a curriculum that remains focused on the student experience and employability.

The successful candidate will have a degree in a relevant subject area, and either a postgraduate qualification or significant management experience in the land-based sector.

While we would like to appoint an experienced HE academic, we will also consider applications from those at the start of their career.

Key Responsibilities

Teaching and Assessment

- Deliver teaching through lectures, tutorials, seminars, online environments, field excursions, practical exercises and other modes of delivery to undergraduate and postgraduate students: to embrace the latest innovations in teaching and learning.
- Develop the School's teaching programmes in Livestock Production to ensure they are cutting edge and include the latest developments in appropriate technology.
- Design, deliver and mark a range of assessments, as required by programme specifications.
- Supervise undergraduate and postgraduate student dissertations.
- Create student awareness of current professional practice through visits, case studies and visiting speakers.
- Provide academic and pastoral support for students e.g. through personal tutor responsibilities.
- Contribute to the generation and delivery of professional development courses.

Scholarly and Professional Activity

- Engage in a programme of academic research.
- Engage in on-going professional development, including completion of a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP or equivalent) if not already held.
- Attending and contributing to relevant congresses and conferences to develop the wider agenda and to promote the RAU's programmes.

- Identifying opportunities for marketing the courses at RAU, through interaction, engagement and networking with students, employers, investors and sector specialists.

Administration

- Manage modules, programmes and other functions.
- Attendance at academic board, programme meetings, School meetings, examiners meetings and other management meetings arising from assigned responsibilities.
- Assist with the careers service to students and employers.
- Be part of the School recruitment team.
- Participating in the corporate life of the RAU as deemed relevant by the Head of School and Vice Chancellor.
- To contribute to the development of the wider University's new curriculum and academic agenda.

Person Specification: Lecturer / Senior Lecturer

Essential (E); Desirable (D)

	Lecturer	Senior Lecturer
PhD or equivalent professional experience in a relevant subject area	E	E
Teaching / HEA qualification	D	E
Membership of a professional body	D	D
Experience of the externally-funded research process (bidding, securing, managing and completing projects)	D	E
Management of research teams to deliver high quality and timely outputs	D	E
Collaboration with researchers, funders and other partners	D	E
Postgraduate research supervision and examination	D	E
Experience of undergraduate and / or post graduate teaching	E	E
Publication in peer-reviewed outlets of international standing	D	E
Inter-disciplinary working	E	E
Develop modules and course programmes / specifications	D	E
Able to engage the interest and enthusiasm of students and inspire them to develop as independent learners	D	E
Contribute to the accreditation of courses and quality control processes	D	E
Design of modules and innovative assessment methods	D	E
Ability to use IT packages including Excel, Word, Access and PowerPoint	E	E
Have excellent communication skills and the ability to communicate complex and technical information	E	E

Develop initiative, creativity and judgement in applying appropriate approaches to teaching and learning, support and research activities	E	E
Respond to pedagogical and practical challenges, notably with the use of technological pedagogic approaches	D	E
Experience of research software such as Genstat, SPSS, R, Endnote, STATA, NVivo and the like	E	E
Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills	E	E
To be pro-active and self-motivated	E	E
Able to work to tight deadlines under pressure	E	E
Able to work on own initiative and as part of a team	E	E
Able to travel and work away when required (nationally and internationally)	E	E

Application Procedure:

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send:

- A University [Academic Application Form](#) together with the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) available on the University website www.rau.ac.uk) – Please attach your up to date CV to add additional information
- A covering letter explaining your interest and motivation for applying, along with how your experience and qualifications suit you for the role
- Details for three professional or academic referees

Please forward to the Human Resource, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS or via email to human.resources@rau.ac.uk

Closing date: 13 March 2020

Interview date: 27 March 2020