

Just the Job Information Sheet

Job title

Scientist - DairyNZ

Job description

Scientists contribute to the increased productivity on-farm for New Zealand dairy farmers through...

- Designing and carrying out scientific investigations in key areas of important to New Zealand dairy farming, such as maximising pasture/forage performance, enhancing animal productivity and longevity, safeguarding milk quality and animal health, and minimising environmental impacts of dairying
- Provision of technical/specialist knowledge to dairy farmers through extension, farmer conferences, publications and other farmer-targeted media and events
- Publication of scientific findings in peer-reviewed scientific journals and science conference proceedings

Qualifications required

- PhD in a relevant science

General requirements

- Able to use logic and methods to solve difficult problems with effective solutions
- Experience in designing, conducting and analysing field experiments
- Relate well to others and able to communicate scientific findings to all levels of understanding
- Good understanding of the biological and management principles of dairy production systems
- Experience in handling animals in experiments, including understanding of associated animal ethics requirements
- Proven ability to report the results of field research in scientific literature (peer-reviewed journal publications)

Training costs

This depends on the university attended and number of years to complete studies. Industry scholarships and awards can significantly reduce financial costs.

Occasionally, DairyNZ studentships are available; these are paid (salary) placements at DairyNZ, with university fees and associated costs included. There are also other industry organisations that offer similar employment/study opportunities.

Career path

The general career pathway begins with an initial appointment as a Post-Doctoral Scientist, after successfully completing a doctorate. Candidates can then advance to Scientist, Senior Scientist and beyond.

To advance to each level, the candidate must prove increasing capability in proposing and drafting of funding applications, scientific project management and budgeting (including an increase in scale of project), leadership of people and teams, analysis and interpretation of research findings, and dissemination of results in peer-reviewed scientific journals and conferences. Candidates must also build competencies in transferring knowledge to farmers through extension, and farmer-targeted media and events.

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

To increase the chances of being selected for role as a scientist in DairyNZ, a candidate should target university studies that include pasture agronomy or animal science. Candidates will benefit from dairy farming-related employment e.g. summer placements and internships with DairyNZ and similar research organisations.

Other places to source information about this job

<http://www.yourprimaryadvantage.co.nz/home>