SUMMER RESEARCH POSITION AVAILABLE

Swine Research Assistant and Animal Caretaker

Hickory Ridge Research & Consulting (HRRC) is a swine research firm contracted to conduct feed and growth trials for an international swine genetics company. Located just 15 minutes northwest of campus (near the Purdue University animal research complex), Hickory Ridge has capacity for approximately 250 market hogs. The facility is a modern shower-in/shower-out swine facility and emphasizes strict biosecurity measures to maintain the health of the animals involved in the study. Below is a job description, qualifications, and approximate hours available per day/week, along with wages, etc.

Job Description

- Assist with arrival of pigs, which includes sorting, weighing, tagging, and vaccinating.
- Assist with set up of trial by entering data into spreadsheets, sorting/filtering data, assigning pigs to treatment groups, and sorting pigs into assigned groups.
- Be available to feed and check pigs at least once per day. Pigs may require feeding twice per day or more frequent walk-thrus if newly weaned.
- Keep accurate records of the weight of all feed dispensed to each treatment group.
- Scrape aisles and pens regularly to maintain a clean environment.
- Assist with weighing pigs and recording weights in regular intervals as per trial protocol.
- Measure and dispose of leftover feed when required per trial protocol.
- Monitor feed usage and advise when to order feed deliveries.
- Monitor pig health and treat sick pigs as needed or advise owner of sick pigs.

Qualifications

- Experience working in a swine confinement unit which includes knowledge of sorting, handling, vaccinating, tagging, etc. of pigs ranging in size from 10 lbs. up to 300 lbs.
- Working knowledge of swine health and a keen ability to identify a sick or injured pig.
- Ability to think for yourself and make decisions on the fly.
- Strong attention to detail and excellent communication skills.
- Ability to stay on task and complete that task with a high degree of accuracy.
- Highly dependable person with reliable transportation.
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs.
- Ability to work one to seven days per week on a rotating schedule which includes some weekend duties.
- Experience with Excel, especially in setting up spreadsheets and sorting/filtering data.
- MUST NOT BE EXPOSED TO OTHER SWINE WHILE WORKING AT HRRC. EXPOSURE TO OTHER SWINE WILL REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS DOWN TIME BEFORE RETURNING TO WORK.

Hours/Wages

- Work hours are flexible and can be scheduled according to the employee’s schedule, within certain guidelines. Typical feeding and recording of data for the entire barn takes approximately 1 to 1½ hours per day. Starting rate of pay is $12 per hour. Employees will be paid for a minimum of 2 hours work per day given the distance from campus. For instance, if employee completes all tasks in 1½ hours, employee will still be paid for 2 hours of work.

Send resume along with references to Dave Lehe at: dave.hrrc@gmail.com