

PhD POSITION

University of Guelph – Department of Animal Biosciences

Effects of vehicle design, transport and handling conditions, and market weight on animal welfare and carcass and meat quality of pigs

Date: PhD to start in January 2019.

Subject: Transport and handling of pigs.

Description: This research program on swine transportation aims at evaluating 1) the effects of transporting pigs to slaughter using three different trailer models under different climate conditions and distances on animal welfare and carcass and meat quality; 2) the effects of space allowance during transport under different climate conditions on animal welfare and carcass and meat quality in pigs of two market weights; 3) the effects of handling conditions at loading on the ease of handling and physiological response in pigs of two market weights. A PhD studies position is offered to work on several aspects of these studies: behavioural and physiological response to handling and transport stress, within vehicle climate variation under different outdoors conditions, and carcass and meat quality evaluation. The student will do a literature review of the existing knowledge on the subject in pigs, participate in experimental design, carry out experimental protocols, collect and analyse data, perform blood and meat sample analysis, and finally write reports and scientific papers.

Research will be conducted at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Sherbrooke Research and Development Centre (Sherbrooke, QC, Canada) in collaboration with the University of Guelph (ON, Canada) and University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, SK). Students will be registered at the University of Guelph. The student will be co-supervised by Dr. Luigi Faucitano (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and Dr. Renée Bergeron (U. Guelph). A stipend will be provided through the research grant. The student will be based in either Sherbrooke or Guelph, but temporary relocation will be necessary.

Candidate skills:

- MSc in animal science, food science, animal biology or veterinary science
- Motivation for the study of animal welfare, behaviour and physiology, and carcass and meat quality
- Knowledge of animal biology, especially animal behaviour and physiology
- Knowledge of computer (Pack Office) and statistical analysis
- Practical experience in ethology, animal physiology, meat science or in pig production would be an asset

For information, please contact Dr. Luigi Faucitano
For application, please send a CV, a motivation letter and contact information for two references.

Dr. Luigi Faucitano

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