

Livestock Technical Officer

Role Overview:

The Livestock Technical Officer will support livestock research focussed primarily on the northern beef industry. The position will deliver technical expertise to research projects led out of Townsville and other locations across Australia (primarily Brisbane and Armidale). These projects cover research into ruminant feed efficiency, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from beef cattle and digital technologies in support of the beef industry. The Livestock Technical Officer will undertake practical cattle husbandry in a research setting including field, desktop and laboratory work.

The position will require willingness to travel, including to rural and regional Australia, necessitating nights away from home.

Duties and Key Result Areas:

- Provide technical support in the laboratory, animal house and field in support of a range of beef-related research projects.
- Undertake and complete tasks under technical direction, work with discretion to decide on the timing of operations within the work team's plan and plan ahead to meet experiment and/or project demands.
- Work effectively under direction from livestock managers and handlers in a working beef cattle operation.
- Under technical direction, undertake experiments, laboratory analyses or technology development activities (some non-routine) using a range of techniques, often working on a number of parallel and competing tasks.
- Work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary, regionally dispersed research team, to undertake technical investigations and carry out associated tasks under the guidance of more senior Research Scientists.
- Communicate effectively and respectfully with clients, contractors and suppliers in the interests of good business practice, collaboration and enhancement of the organisation's reputation.
- Adhere to the spirit and practice of the organisation's Values, Health, Safety and Environment plans and policies, Inclusion and diversity initiatives and Zero Harm goals.
- Other duties as directed.

Apply Online

To apply online, please provide a CV and cover letter outlining your suitability and motivation for the role.

Role overview

The role description gives an overview or what the job involves and how it fits within an organisation. It will often highlight the skills or experience needed to do the job.

You should refer back to the role description when considering responses to the selection criteria to ensure that you are using appropriate keywords.

General duties and goals of the position

The details in the role overview and duties provide the context you need to customise your cover letter, resume, and selection criteria responses.

Make a note of any keywords that could be used in your selection criteria responses, particularly keywords associated with specific techniques or equipment.

You should get a sense of how well you fit the role with your existing education and work experience and judge whether you're a suitable candidate for the role.

Instructions

Ensure you follow the instructions outlined on each job advert. Don't assume that each job advert will have the same requirements.

These instructions have not provided a page limit however they have specified that you should only include a CV and cover letter. This means that you will need to include your selection criteria responses as part of your cover letter.

In this instance, you should try to limit your cover letter to two pages.

Competencies

1. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Proactively seeks and considers the ideas and opinions of others from within and outside the team to help form decisions, plans or actions.
2. **Influence and Communication:** Puts forward ideas by presenting factual information supported by data, definitions, examples, illustrations or other aids, which will assist in conveying meaning.
3. **Resource Management/Leadership:** Provides instruction and assists other staff to complete allocated tasks and activities.
4. **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Identifies and considers the implications of a range of available alternatives in order to select the most appropriate response to problems of a familiar or recurring nature.
5. **Independence:** Recognise and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).
6. **Adaptability:** Willingness to change ideas or perceptions based on new information, contrary evidence or other people's points of view. Prepared to try out different approaches.

Selection Criteria:

Under our policy only those who meet all essential selection criteria can be appointed.

Essential criteria:

1. A degree or equivalent research/livestock experience in a relevant discipline area such as rural/agricultural science, animal science, information technology or laboratory practice.
2. Demonstrated ability to work in the field with livestock and scientific equipment and conform to health and safety standards and animal ethics requirements.
3. Demonstrated ability to work in the laboratory, and conform to standard laboratory practice and health and safety requirements.
4. Demonstrated ability to handle scientific data in spreadsheets and statistical packages.
5. A willingness to travel and possession of a current Class C Australian drivers licence.

Desirable Criteria:

1. An understanding of rural culture, especially the beef industry, and low stress animal handling skills.
2. Knowledge of the use of information technology and electronics in research and rural settings.
3. Knowledge of in vitro fermentation techniques, and the principles of animal production such as nutrition, genetics and behaviour.
4. Practical skills in electronics or mechanics repair and maintenance.

Extra information

Sometimes position descriptions will contain other information that further defines what the role involves and how the person performing the job is expected to behave.

This type of information is common in government department or other large organisations with formal recruitment processes.

You're generally not expected to respond to this information but you should keep it in mind when writing your application and during an interview.

Selection criteria

The selection criteria are used to assess your suitability for a role. Examples of how you meet these criteria may be required as part of your written application or during an interview. Some organisations require candidates to meet all selection criteria whereas others are more flexible in their assessment of candidates.

Criteria that mention 'Proven', 'Demonstrated' or 'Applied' will require an strong example of a moment when you have performed those tasks.

Sometimes the selection criteria will be divided into "essential" and "desirable" criteria. If you're unable to address the essential criteria, you are unlikely to progress to the next stage.

Desirable selection criteria don't require a response but if you have relevant skills and experience that address these criteria, you should include a response.

Desirable criteria highlight the importance of getting work experience as they're often related to experiences obtained outside of university. These desirable skills and experience can often set you apart from other candidates.