

Research Assistant Professor, Turkey Health
University of Minnesota

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Posted Mar. 1, 2024, set to expire Jul. 3, 2024

Job Title	Research Assistant Professor, Turkey Health
Department	Department of Animal Science http://www.ansci.umn.edu
Institution	University of Minnesota St. Paul, Minnesota
Date Posted	Mar. 1, 2024
Application Deadline	Mar. 29, 2024
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Assistant Professor Research Professor
Academic Field(s)	Poultry Science Animal Science
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Apply By Email

Job Description

Department of Animal Science

Research Assistant Professor, Turkey Health

Term:12-month, non tenure-track, renewable, 1-year initial contract

Reports to:Animal Science Department Head

College/Admin Unit:College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

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Campus Location: St. Paul Campus

Position Overview

Research Assistant Professor, non-tenure-track (12-month) position with 100% research responsibilities involving turkey health and management. The individual in this UMN position will be funded by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and will work closely with the Minnesota Poultry Industry and University of Minnesota (UMN) faculty and students to conduct research focused on the study of avian influenza, salmonella, and other diseases of turkeys, to possibly include identifying mechanisms of pathogenesis; evaluating management approaches to reduce disease severity, incidence, and spread; and other approaches to control or reduce diseases of economic importance to the turkey industry.

The home of this position is in the Department of Animal Science (<http://ansci.umn.edu>) which is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) (<http://www.cfans.umn.edu/>) on the St. Paul Campus. The successful candidate is expected to develop an independent, yet collaborative, research program to complement ongoing UMN work in related fields and to recruit and mentor graduate students including those from diverse backgrounds. Collaboration among research and Extension faculty and with colleagues in the UMN College of Veterinary Medicine, the UMN Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and other disciplines is expected. This position is renewable annually depending on successful performance and continuation of funding. As a contract faculty position, tenure is not awarded, but a successful research faculty member can earn promotion to Associate and Full Research Professor based on academic accomplishments, with promotions resulting in the offer of renewable three-year and five-year contracts for promotion to associate and full professor, respectively.

Responsibilities

The UMN Department of Animal Science is seeking applicants having the ability to establish and maintain an innovative, independent yet collaborative, extramurally funded research program, and contribute to the public service mission of the University.

Research: 100%

- The successful candidate will be expected to develop a nationally and internationally recognized and fundable research program in turkey health.
- The individual will conduct basic and translational research with molecular, cellular, or systems immunology which could span a broad range of disciplines including but not limited to microbiology, virology, animal health, immunogenetics, biochemistry, and molecular and cell biology in turkeys. Biochemical, and/or biotechnological approaches to enhance productivity of

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turkeys are also fertile aspects of potential research.

- The candidate is expected to be a contributing member to the research programs within the Department and collaborate with other faculty in departments and colleges across the U of M and other scientists in state and federal agencies.
- The successful candidate will be expected to explore opportunities for basic and applied research projects with several of the aforementioned industry partners in the state of Minnesota.
- The successful candidate's research program is expected to support graduate student research, resulting in publications in relevant refereed journals.
- The successful candidate will seek extramural funding to fund graduate research assistantships and grow their research programs through effective grantsmanship.

Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. (or equivalent) in animal, poultry, or veterinary science or a program with a demonstrated focus on avian health, immunology, or similar field completed by the time of appointment.
- Demonstrated ability to propose and conduct independent and collaborative research
- Publication record in peer reviewed scientific journals
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion including the ability to work respectfully and effectively with individuals with diverse identities and underrepresented groups.

Preferred Qualifications

- Post-doctoral work in aspects of avian, or preferably, turkey immunology or disease management.
- Background in providing oversight to research in turkey health and diseases.
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills.
- Knowledge and experience with avian influenza, salmonella, and/or other diseases of turkeys.
- Evidence of obtaining extramural grant funding.
- Experience in graduate student advising and mentoring.
- Experience and ability to work in research and outreach in an interdisciplinary, diverse, and multicultural environment.
- Experience in field-based applied research.
- Evidence of communication of research results to external audiences

College Overview

The College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) is composed of 27 programs: 14 undergraduate and 13 graduate programs in disciplines involving food, agricultural, and natural resource sciences. CFANS also has

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10 research and outreach centers across Minnesota, plus the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Bell Museum, and dozens of interdisciplinary centers that span the college, the university, and the globe. Undergraduate enrollment in the college is about 2000 students. CFANS students are well-prepared for a diverse, multicultural workforce through the college's emphasis on experiential, interdisciplinary, and intercultural learning; internships and global perspectives.

At CFANS, we aim to inspire minds, nourish people, and enhance the natural environment, and we believe that's only possible if everyone feels seen, heard and respected. Our College embraces equity and diversity and prioritizes purpose-driven scientific discovery in order for us to build a better tomorrow, together. We align with the University of Minnesota in providing equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Department Overview

The Department of Animal Science (<http://www.ansci.umn.edu>) in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) (<http://www.cfans.umn.edu/>) is located on the scenic St. Paul campus. The Animal Science major, with an enrollment of 360 students, is divided into five emphasis areas: Business/Industry, Companion Animal, Equine, Production, and Pre-Veterinary Medicine/Science. Each emphasis offers a unique combination of classes to prepare students for future careers in business, production management, companion animal, equine, veterinary medicine or graduate school. Within an emphasis, students can also specialize in a species, such as beef, companion animal, dairy, equine, poultry, swine or sheep, or develop a set of elective classes unique to their animal interests. The Animal Sciences graduate program currently has 38 graduate students. In addition to the MS and PhD degrees in Animal Science, students may also participate in the Poultry Health Certificate Program (<https://poultrytraining.umn.edu/program-overviews/poultry-health-certificate-program>) and/or the Masters of Applied Poultry Science (<https://poultrytraining.umn.edu/program-overviews/research-masters>).

Poultry Industry in Minnesota:

Minnesota has an extensive poultry industry which is linked both nationally and internationally. Minnesota has ranked #1 for turkey production (39-42 million annually); and is home to the world's largest turkey hatchery company (Select-Genetics) and the 2nd largest turkey processing company in the U.S. (Jennie-O Turkey Store), both located in Willmar, MN. Turkey Valley Farms in Marshall, MN is grower owned, and packages as many as 100 different labels. Northern Pride in Thief River Falls, MN is also a cooperative that specializes in free-range, antibiotic-free, and organic turkeys. The Minnesota Turkey industry comprises 600 individual farms and accounts for over \$1B in economic activity and 26,000 jobs. In addition, Minnesota is ranked 10th in the US for chicken egg layers and the major

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broiler company (Pilgrims' Pride) produces 59 million chicken broilers annually.

Salary/Benefits

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The University of Minnesota offers a **comprehensive benefits package** including:

- Competitive wages, paid holidays
- Earned sick and safe time
- Low-cost medical, dental, and pharmacy plans
- Health care and dependent daycare flexible spending accounts
- Excellent retirement plans with generous employer contribution and immediate vesting
- Employer paid disability and life insurance
- Wellbeing program with reduced insurance premiums
- Tuition reimbursement opportunities covering 75% of eligible tuition
- Opportunities for Sabbaticals and other professional leaves
- Opportunities for growth and promotion
- Employee Assistance Program

For more information regarding benefits, see Summary of Benefits.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted online: [http://employment.umn.edu/\(search for Job #359927](http://employment.umn.edu/(search for Job #359927)
) . Candidates should include all of the required application materials **combined into one single PDF document**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required application materials:

- A cover letter clearly addressing the required and preferred qualifications
- Curriculum Vitae
- 1 - 2 page Research Statement
- Diversity Statement* (please see instructions below)
- Names, addresses and email contact information for three (3) professional references that will be contacted if you are deemed a final candidate

For questions regarding this position, please contact Dr. Anup Kollanoor Johny, chair of search committee, email: anupjohn@umn.edu, phone: 612-625-5277. Inquiries about the search process may be directed to Kim Reno, Administrative Director, email: renox001@umn.edu, 612-624-7453. To request accommodation during the application process, please e-mail

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employ@umn.edu or call (612) 624-UOHR (8647).

Application Review will start on March 29, 2024.

Please apply by that time for full consideration.

*Instructions for Diversity Statement (include with application materials) *

Applicants are required to submit a diversity statement for this position. CFANS values and is actively invested in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) throughout all of our academic programs. Please review the CFANS definition of diversity and the DEI strategic plan for the college.

Please, provide a diversity statement that details your professional experiences in DEI. Experiences may include:

- Working with diverse communities or local organizations
- Embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into your professional career
- Embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into your research
- Your own educational experiences, such as courses or workshops you have participated in and how you anticipate incorporating what you have learned in your future work

Diversity

The University recognizes and values the importance of diversity and inclusion in enriching the employment experience of its employees and in supporting the academic mission. The University is committed to attracting and retaining employees with varying identities and backgrounds.

The University of Minnesota provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. To learn more about diversity at the U: <http://diversity.umn.edu>.

Employer Requirements

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.

About the U of M

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The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

We acknowledge that the University of Minnesota Twin Cities is built within the traditional homelands of the Dakota people. It is important to acknowledge the peoples on whose land we live, learn, and work as we seek to improve and strengthen our relations with our tribal nations.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact Anup Kollanoor Johny
Department of Animal Science
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN

Phone Number 612-625-5277

Contact E-mail anupjohn@umn.edu