



Programme Director (Strength in Places 'Digital Dairy Chain') and Professor of Dairy Product Innovation

JOB DESCRIPTION

Based in SRUC's Dairy Research & Innovation Centre in Dumfries and working with a wide range of project partners and stakeholders across South-West Scotland and Cumbria, the purpose of this post is overall direction of an exciting new Strength in Places Project "Digital Dairy Value-Chain for SW Scotland and Cumbria". SRUC is leading this 5-year, £21.3 million project along with University of Strathclyde, University of the West of Scotland, CENSIS, First Milk Limited, Lactalis McLelland Limited, Kendal Nutricare Limited, Cows & Co Group Limited, National Milk Records PLC and SmartSTEMs

Aiming to create more than 600 new jobs and add £60 million to the annual output of the local economy, the Digital Dairy Value-Chain project will be a considerable boost to Cumbria and South-West Scotland. It will strengthen and decarbonise the area's dairy industry, which every year produces 1.9 billion litres of milk. The project will provide world-class opportunities for research and business innovation in advanced, sustainable, high-value dairy processing. It will work with the dairy industry to develop and introduce technologies for sensing and data handling, as well as infrastructure to support innovation and growth for local businesses. It will deliver advanced manufacturing processes to create a fully integrated and traceable supply chain as well as help businesses to develop new products and explore new markets.

Within SRUC, the project will work alongside, and extend the activity of, SRUC's Dairy Research & Innovation Centre. The appointee will be a member of the Centre Leadership Team, along with Professor Richard Dewhurst (Professor of Ruminant Nutrition & Production Systems and Head of Dairy Research & Innovation Centre) and Professor John Newbold (Professor of Dairy Nutrition and Head of Global Climate Emergency Challenge Centre). They will provide leadership across partners and manage staff involved in managing budgets, communications, monitoring and evaluation, and administration of a local grant scheme for the whole programme. Additionally, they will manage staff involved in dairy product innovation from pilot research through to scale-up and commercialisation.

Key responsibilities include:

- Providing leadership and strategic vision for the Digital Dairy Value Chain project to ensure maximum value and legacy for the dairy value chain, South-West Scotland and Cumbria, SRUC and the funder (UKRI);
- Monitoring performance of all activity across the Digital Dairy Value Chain project, including running meetings with governance and technical advisory groups, monitoring outputs and risks, and managing the project budget. This will involve close liaison with workpackage leads based with several partners;
- Working with the Project Monitoring Officer and funding agency (UKRI) to monitor and report on progress, including technical and financial reporting (direct reports will support this: Finance Manager, Marketing Manager, Monitoring Officer and Grant Administrators);
- Engaging with external expertise and bringing in additional support, as required – for example in legal and health and safety matters, as well as to help with vision and direction;



- Acting as a key public face for the Digital Dairy Value Chain project in relationships with stakeholders, public and media;
- Providing dairy product/processing innovation discipline leadership, establishing facilities at SRUC Barony campus and partner sites, and managing staff involved in dairy product innovation from pilot research through to scale-up and commercialisation. This will include a strong input to development of dairy product research facilities at Barony campus through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal; and
- Contributing to Leadership of the wider SRUC Dairy Research & Innovation Centre through membership of the Centre Leadership Team.

The post-holder may be asked to perform additional duties as directed from time to time by the Head of Centre. The post holder must use their initiative in the conduct of their work and apply sound judgement at all times to ensure that they conduct themselves within the framework of SRUC regulations and procedures.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Competencies	Essential	Desirable
Education/ Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD or equivalent (substantial experience of industry research and innovation) in agri-food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in Food Science.
Skills/Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficient with systems for managing programmes, budgets, milestones and deliverables. Well-developed inter-personal skills. Excellent standard of written and oral presentational skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal administration qualification (e.g. MBA).
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial experience of managing large multi-site projects. Project evaluation experience. Managed a large team with diverse (technical and management) roles. Substantial experience of presenting work to company boards, civic leadership and national politicians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership of similar large programmes, with multiple sites, large budget and many staff. Programme evaluation experience. Already well connected within the dairy value chain.
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth understanding of dairy production and processing industries. Clear vision of challenges and opportunities for the dairy value chain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexibility to travel and work in locations across SW Scotland and Cumbria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

GRADE AND SALARY

The appointment will be made on the SRUC Professor (Zone 2) salary scale: £70,000 - £85,000 per annum.

CONTRACT TYPE

Full Time / fixed-term contract for 5 years, with potential to extend based on successful establishment of a viable ongoing programme of research and innovation.

LOCATION

Mostly home-based with travel required across SW Scotland and Cumbria; Campus base will be SRUC's Dairy Research & Innovation Centre, Dumfries.