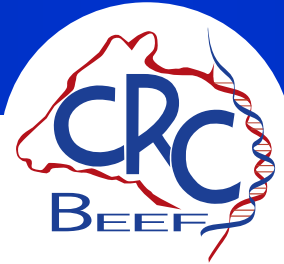


Cooperative Research Centre for Beef Genetic Technologies

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Beef CRC PhD Scholarship available for Project: “Cattle Fertility Gene Discovery Using Integrated Genetic data Analyses”

In livestock, genes identified for traits such as growth, reproduction, milk or meat yield enhance / accelerate the genetic gain if the genes are combined with traditional breeding techniques using ‘genomic selection’. Sequencing the bovine genome has resulted in detection of many thousands of genetic markers known as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP). Beef CRC Program 4 (Female Reproductive Performance) is conducting Genome Wide Association (GWA) tests to discover and validate DNA markers for age at puberty and post-partum re-conception success in tropical beef cattle with the aim of developing a DNA-based test that cattle producers can use.

This particular PhD project provides an opportunity for the student to be a part of state-of-the-art genetic/genomic experiments and technologies, learn quantitative genetics and related data analytical skills. Beef CRC maintains databases with comprehensive cattle pedigree, phenotypic and whole genome genotypic information for fertility and other important traits. The PhD student will have an access to these databases for his/her research for conducting quantitative genetics research and will be involved in planned beef cattle genomic experiments in Central and Northern Queensland.

During the research the student will develop skills and proficiencies in advanced techniques in bio-statistics, quantitative and molecular genetics, computational biology and bioinformatics. The student will be supervised by Dr. Haja Kadarmideen and will join a large group of geneticists, reproductive biologists and technicians in the Beef CRC Program. The student will be located in Rockhampton and will be a part of a research team in quantitative genetics and computational & systems biology. He/She will have an opportunity to interact with a number of multi-disciplinary research groups including animal behavior, livestock environment and food safety. This will complement the molecular and statistical genetics focus of the project. As well, the student will collaborate closely with an academic and/or university professor from University of New England in Armidale or University of Queensland in Brisbane where he/she will be enrolled as a PhD student.

To apply, candidates must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. A high-level Honours or Masters degree or similar in the field of Agriculture, Biology, Statistics or Computer Science with a focus on Genetics, Animal/Plant Breeding, Bioinformatics or similar field is required. Scholarships are competitively available through the Beef CRC’s postgraduate program, with tax free PhD scholarships worth \$28,000 p.a. **Applications close by May 31, 2008.**

Application forms and eligibility criteria can be obtained from Dr. Graham Gardner by email G.Gardner@murdoch.edu.au or telephone 08 9360 2264. They can also be downloaded from the following website: <http://svc192.bne150v.server-web.com/default.asp?page=/education/scholarships>. For informal enquiry about the project and work, contact Dr. Haja Kadarmideen by email Haja.Kadarmideen@csiro or telephone 07 4923 8266.