

INFLUENCE OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON ECOSYSTEM GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

(2013-2017)

Two postgraduate positions are available, starting as soon as possible, on the effects of management practices on greenhouse gas emissions from agro-ecosystems.

1. *The effects of management practices on C sequestration in pastures*

This is a four year PhD position funded by DAFM to look at the impact of a range of management practices on C sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions from grasslands. A number of management practices will be examined including the effects of drainage, grazing and the use of multi-species swards. Measurements will be made at a number of locations throughout the Island of Ireland.

This project is part of a National initiative involving a consortium of researchers and Institutions examining greenhouse gas emissions from different land uses.

2. *The effects of different cultivation techniques on the greenhouse gas budget of oil seed rape crops*

This is a four year PhD Walsh Fellowship funded by Teagasc to examine the influence of different cultivation techniques on oil seed rape cropping systems. Oil seed rape is sown as a winter crop that can be used for sustainable biofuel production and contribute to energy self-sufficiency, whilst also reducing the greenhouse gas footprint of agro-ecosystems. This is a collaborative project with Dr Gary Lanigan, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, Wexford Ireland.

For both positions a minimum of a high calibre honours degree in plant/environmental science is required, with a masters in a relevant area preferred. For both positions a full current driving license is also required, as is an aptitude for experimental field work. Funding will be based on a student stipend of €21,000 per annum, to include a scholarship and fees, currently at €5,800 per annum, together with an allocation for travel and consumable costs.

The successful students will join a large research team with outstanding facilities and infrastructure for ecosystem greenhouse gas emissions from a range of different land uses, including new portable systems for gas analyses.

For informal enquiries please contact:-

Professor Bruce Osborne, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science;
Bruce.Osborne@ucd.ie

Who will provide information on the application procedure.