TEAGASC PHD WALSH FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Maximising labour productivity and minimising labour demand on Irish dairy farms: Striking the best balance”

Walsh Fellowship Ref Number 2018045

Background
Labour productivity is an important factor influencing the economic performance of farming enterprises. It impacts on a number of key aspects of dairy farming, such as (a) quality of life, safety and wellbeing of the operators; (ii) succession of farm owner/operators by the next generation; (iii) availability of skilled people who want employment on farms; and (iv) profitability of the farm as influenced by labour costs. Historical trends and future labour forecasts suggest that the demand for people to work on dairy farms will increase, while the availability of people who are willing to work on-farm will decrease. It is critical to develop exact definitions, performance indicators and benchmarks on labour productivity to identify the approach and management strategy required to correct work load/labour demand problems on expanding dairy farms. The examination and benchmarking of labour efficiency across a range of representative dairy farms with respect to operational scale, infra-structure, facilities and consequent work organization will represent a significant part of this project.

Requirements
The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated with an ability to work independently and be willing to undertake recommended coursework. Strong quantitative skills and good communication skills, both written and verbal, are essential requirements. Applicants should have a First or Second Class Honours degree or hold an M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (Agricultural Science, Rural Development, Business, etc. or related).

Award
The PhD Fellowship is a joint research project between Teagasc and University College Dublin. The student will be based primarily at the Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark, Co. Cork under the supervision of Dr Marion Beecher and at the School of Agriculture & Food Science, University College Dublin under the supervision of Prof. Jim Kinsella.

The fellowship funding is €22,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

Further Information/Applications
Prof. Jim Kinsella, School of Agriculture & Food Science, UCD. Phone +353- 1-7167760. Email: jim.kinsella@ucd.ie
Dr Marion Beecher, Teagasc. Phone +353-25-42361. Email: marion.beecher@teagasc.ie

Application Procedure
Applicants should submit an electronic copy of their CV and covering letter detailing their qualifications and experience simultaneously to: jim.kinsella@ucd.ie and marion.beecher@teagasc.ie

Closing date: 27th April 2018