

Content Development Position for the European Layer Training Initiative (ELTI)

Background

The European Layer Training Initiative (ELTI) is a newly formed consortium of representatives from four European nations (Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland) with the aim to aid and inform the North American industry as it transitions to cage-free systems over the coming decade by providing exposure to European cage-free laying hen management practices. The principal activity of ELTI will be establishment of training modules within the respective European nations for their North American colleagues (principally extension agents, consultants, farm managers, and NGO representatives) to see firsthand European management of cage-free systems. Training modules will involve a combination of site visits, classroom lectures, and interactions with European producers, to allow North American participants to learn about European practices so that they can develop best practices for their North American-based operations and stakeholders.

Content Development Position

The ELTI consortium is seeking a qualified candidate to play a leading role for an initial, 16 day, pilot effort of the training module. Working with members of the consortium who will be providing the developed content, the Content Development Position (CDP) will coordinate the various activities across the four nations. Actual content will be delivered by a variety of persons, including consortium members, external speakers, as well as the CDP. Once the training module is completed, the CDP would coordinate a policy paper to be published in a peer-reviewed journal describing the development process, actual training exercises, and recommendations for future training modules. Beyond members of the ELTI consortium, the CDP will also be supported in part by a separate administrative position.

The CDP will be based in Zollikofen, Switzerland, at the Center for Proper Housing of Poultry and Rabbits (ZTHZ, <http://www.tierschutz.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/index_eng.html>), a collaboration between the University of Bern and the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office. The 60-80% position is expected to begin Dec 1st, 2018, or soon thereafter and continue for a 12 month period. Depending on the success of the pilot, the training modules would be expected to continue and likely expand considerably. Opportunities for other activities, including research within the ZTHZ, will be encouraged to supplement the CDP position. The CDP would be an employee of the University of Bern and thus afforded all benefits and privileges as an employee. Salary level will be commensurate on the chosen applicant's skill level and experience in accordance with university policy.

Applicants must be able to speak English (B2 or greater), demonstrate experience in organizing and managing complex activities, and work both within a team and independently. Experience with laying hens (e.g., basic handling as well in relation to commercial production) will be highly regarded; teaching and/or giving presentations will also be taken into consideration. A Ph.D. is not required though would be considered advantageous if the person would like to lead ZTHZ research projects as supplemental work.

Questions regarding the position should be directed to the ELTI chair (Dr. Michael Toscano; michael.toscano@unibe.vetsuisse.ch). To be considered for the position, interested applicants should send a 2-page CV, motivational letter, and up to three references as a single PDF document to the ELTI administrative assistant, Ms. Lilian Smith (lilian.smith@vetsuisse.unibe.ch) by October 22nd, 2018. Following receipt of applications, the ELTI consortium will hold interviews for selected candidates in early November, 2018.