



November 22, 2013

Applications are now being accepted for the Vita Plus Dairy Nutrition and Management Fellowship.

As the dairies in our market area get more sophisticated, the skills to service their needs as a nutritional consultant increase as well. Our field nutritionists are highly skilled and technologically savvy – built greatly on experience. The challenge for a new college graduate to step into the role of dairy nutritionist and farm consultant is substantial. Many graduates welcome additional training after completing a bachelor's degree to prepare them for future employment in this dairy consulting role. However, the only graduate funds available within a university system are in support of a focused research program.

There is an option at the University of Wisconsin–Madison to receive a master's degree in course. In this case, the research component is minimized in exchange for more advanced instruction. However, this option is rarely used because there are no funds to support the student. Vita Plus sees this as an avenue to train more students for the jobs in our industry. Our fellowship not only financially supports a student interested in this program, but also offers the much needed field and practical experience to balance the class work and normal student and advisor interactions.

The details are on the attachment, but, in summary, we award a fellowship every two years. We are now recruiting for our fourth student in this program to start in the fall of 2014. The student will attend classes at UW-Madison for three semesters and work at Vita Plus two days per week during the 16-month period. The student will also supervise a practical field research project.

Our third recipient, Augusta Hagen, is nearing completion of her fellowship as she prepares to graduate with her M.S. degree. Here is what she has to say about her experience: "The Vita Plus Fellowship is a remarkable experience. The opportunity to get my feet wet in the industry while taking more in-depth classes has helped me prepare to be a successful dairy consultant. Graduate classes have increased my problem solving skills and scientifically have helped me 'connect the dots.' From designing the research cow diets, to organizing the trial and analyzing the outcomes, the university research trial has given me extensive training and a more complete level of awareness. I would recommend the fellowship program to any student who has a career goal to be a top-notch dairy consultant."

Applications must be submitted before February 14, 2014. The selection will be made shortly thereafter.

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Applications Due: February 14, 2014



## **Vita Plus Dairy Nutrition and Management Fellowship** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Dairy Science

*This unique opportunity offers a progressive-minded student interested in a career in dairy nutrition and management consulting an advanced degree path with structured on-farm, office, research, field, feed facility and production experience. The fellowship is funded and directed by Vita Plus.*

### **Fellowship details**

- Requirements:** Student is expected to complete an M.S. degree in course through the Dairy Science Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Must have a B.S. in related field from an accredited university.
- Duration:** Starts in Fall of 2014 and completes in Fall of 2015. This amounts to an average of eight credits per semester.
- Tuition:** Vita Plus will pay all Wisconsin resident tuition expenses (estimated at \$6,000 per semester).
- Employment:** Student will be an employee of Vita Plus.
- Compensation:** \$1,500/month for a 40% employment position (two days/week). Benefits are not included in fellowship. Health insurance is available to students from the University of Wisconsin.
- Training:** Fellowship includes a comprehensive overview of the management of today's dairy operations, feed production and the role nutritionist can play on those operations. Training modules will include experience on a large dairy operation, an on-farm research project, production facility experience, and training with field and technical staff.

### **Application Deadline: February 14, 2014**

**To Apply:** Submit transcripts and resume. Include two letters of reference and a cover letter addressing your qualifications, your interest in a career as a nutritionist, and why you are excited about tomorrow's dairy industry and production agriculture.

Submit to: Rod Martin, Vita Plus Corporation, PO Box 259126, 2514 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI 53725-9126

*Vita Plus Corporation is an employee-owned company headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. Vita Plus has been serving livestock producers since 1948. More than just a feed supplier, Vita Plus consultants offer the latest cutting-edge technology, nutrition and management information. For more information about the organization, call 1-800-362-8334 or go online at [www.vitaplus.com](http://www.vitaplus.com).*