



**Postdoctoral Research Fellow – University of Missouri**  
*Applied Ethology & Environmental Physiology*

The Division of Animal Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia is seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Research Fellow to support a USDA-NIFA IDEAs-funded research and outreach program focused on heat stress biology, behavior, and applied decision-support tools in swine production systems. The position will be based in Columbia, Missouri USA, under the supervision of Jay S. Johnson, in collaboration with Purdue University, the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and the University of Melbourne (Australia), with an anticipated **start date in Summer/Fall 2026**. The successful candidate will contribute to integrated research and Extension/outreach activities that translate thermal biology and applied ethology into practical, on-farm solutions, including producer training on the use of the HotHog smartphone application. This role requires a strong hands-on skillset with live-animal research in swine, including behavioral (preference testing) and physiological (thermoregulatory) measurements, and will include travel for conferences and producer trainings.

**Primary responsibilities:** The postdoctoral fellow will lead and support research activities involving live-animal measurements in swine (including behavioral/ethology assessments and physiological/thermal measures), contribute to study execution and data quality (animal scheduling, sample/measurement collection, documentation, and protocol compliance), and participate in surgical procedures and peri-operative care as required by study protocols. The fellow will assist with experimental design, data management, and interpretation in collaboration with the PI and research team, and will contribute to scholarly outputs (manuscripts, conference abstracts/presentations, and reports). The fellow will also have a teaching responsibility, serving as an instructor for a physiology laboratory course, including preparation, delivery of lab instruction, student support, and coordination of lab activities in alignment with course objectives and department policies. An additional component of the position includes Extension/outreach and stakeholder engagement: the fellow will travel to conferences and producer-facing events to conduct trainings and support adoption of the HotHog smartphone app as part of project outreach objectives.

**Required qualifications:** Applicants must have a Ph.D. (or be near completion with a confirmed defense date) in animal science, physiology, biology, neuroscience/behavior, or a closely related field, and must demonstrate working knowledge of environmental physiology and applied ethology. **Experience collecting live-animal measurements in swine and working knowledge of swine husbandry practices are required.** Candidates must also demonstrate strong communication skills suitable for producer training and professional scientific presentations, the ability to work independently and collaboratively, and a track record (or clear potential) for producing peer-reviewed scholarly outputs. **Applicants who do not have direct swine experience will not be considered.**

**Preferred qualifications:** Preferred candidates will have prior experience conducting heat stress or thermoregulation research in livestock, familiarity with research in commercial-relevant swine environments, experience training non-academic stakeholders (e.g., producers, industry groups, Extension personnel), and demonstrated competency managing complex datasets and contributing to manuscripts and grant deliverables. Experience with animal behavior scoring systems/ethograms and wearable/sensor-based monitoring approaches is also desirable.

**Work environment:** This position is based in Columbia, Missouri, within the Division of Animal Sciences, and involves regular work in swine research settings. Travel is expected for scientific conferences and producer training activities associated with the HotHog smartphone app and project outreach goals.

**Application process:** To apply, submit (1) a cover letter describing fit to the required qualifications and relevant experience in applied ethology/environmental physiology and swine work, (2) a CV, and (3) contact information for three professional references to Dr. Jay S. Johnson ([jsjohnson@missouri.edu](mailto:jsjohnson@missouri.edu)). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, with an anticipated start in Summer/Fall 2026.