



## Green Dairy – Animal Welfare and Behaviour Internship Offer



<https://www.uni-giessen.de/en/faculties/f09/research/projects/GreenDairy>

### **Aim of the project:**

The primary aim of the Green Dairy sub-project is to determine whether calves' emotional state is affected by certain experiences, such as different feeding intensities of their dams during gestation or illnesses. Our research focuses on evaluating how these factors influence the emotional state of dairy calves through Judgement Bias Tests.

Shortly, Judgement Bias Tests assess the response to ambiguous cues of animals that were previously trained to associate contrasting cues with either a positive (i.e. food reward) or negative (i.e. time out) outcomes (discrimination training). The underlying principle is that individuals in a negative emotional state perceive ambiguous cue more negatively compared to those in a positive emotional state, which perceive the ambiguous cue more positively.

### **Your tasks:**

In order to perform the Judgement Bias Tests, we expect you to:

- habituate calves to a halter, and to the training/testing arena
- train calves in "Touch/"No-Touch" training to discriminate between positive cue and negative cue displayed on a monitor
- test calves after successful training by presenting ambiguous cues
- record behavioural responses during testing and training
- analyse recorded data

### **Requirements:**

- Willingness to travel to the farm (1-hour train ride from Giessen), or stay on the farm (possibility to rent a room for 200 euros/month).
- Ability to work reliably and independently, as well as within a team
- Good written and spoken English skills
- German language skills would be beneficial

### **Our offer to you:**

- Free use of regional public transport (Deutschlandticket)
- Mentorship, guidance and support with data collection and statistical analysis
- Flexible working hours
- Exposure to real-world research environments and methodologies
- A friendly and collaborative work environment

Duration of Internship: July to December 2024 (flexible)

Working hours: Monday to Friday from 09:00 am to 05:00 pm (flexible)

Compensation: Sadly we can't offer any compensation

We believe this internship will be mutually beneficial and are excited to support your growth and career development in the field of animal welfare research. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at [oceane.schmitt@agrار.uni-giessen.de](mailto:oceane.schmitt@agrار.uni-giessen.de) or at [noemi.santo@agrار.uni-giessen.de](mailto:noemi.santo@agrار.uni-giessen.de).

We look forward to your positive response and to welcoming you to our team !