Graduate Assistantships Available

Impact of Litter Training Strategies on Egg-Laying, Piling, and Welfare of Laying Hens in Aviaries
Clemson University (PhD or Ms)

One Ms or PhD-level graduate student assistantship will be available starting in Spring 2023.
- The student will be based at Clemson University with **Dr. Ahmed Ali** and will be expected to spend a year at Michigan State collecting data.

Students will work on a USDA-funded project examining the impact of different management strategies to train hens not to lay eggs in the litter area of aviary systems. The student will be focused on using and developing precision livestock farming technologies including body-worn sensors and robots in the litter area to both monitor and manage the behavior of hens.

The students will be involved in the development of data collection protocols, data collection, and analysis of data for a project using different strategies to efficiently and effectively train hens not to lay eggs in the floor litter area of commercial-style aviaries. Behavioral data will collected via direct observation and from video recordings and will be used to determine how the management strategies impact hen behavior compared to control conditions.

In addition to the primary research responsibilities described above, the candidates will be able to participate in other activities such as: assisting with teaching of courses (and development of instructional skills), presentation of findings at scientific conferences and industry meetings, and grant writing.

Qualifications: The ideal candidates should have a strong background in animal behavior and welfare, as well as an interest in use of technology to monitor and manage animals. The positions will focus primarily on laying hens, with cross-training in behavior, welfare, computer science and engineering occurring as needed to perform the necessary research and interact with team members. Candidates should have strong written and oral communication skills in addition to experience with scientific research techniques and a thorough understanding of scientific methodology. The ideal candidates should be comfortable and interested in working with poultry as well as with various types of technology and data processing software. Candidates should enjoy working in a dynamic research environment and be able to work across disciplines.

The position includes a graduate stipend, tuition waiver and health insurance benefits: 3 years for the PhD student.

Interested in Applying?

Please follow directions related to applying to graduate school in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Clemson University to submit your application available at
https://www.clemson.edu/cafls/academics/graduate/animal-veterinary-sciences.html
If you have any questions about the application process at Clemson University, email **Stacey Miller (**smille3@clemson.edu). Questions regarding the MS/PhD assistantship can be directed to Dr. Ali (Ali9@clemson.edu). For full consideration, please complete your application by the dates indicated below.