







Think
ahead with
**poultry
people**

-  Venco Campus, Eersel
-  R&D
-  Fulltime
-  Master degree

PhD in Monitoring predictive indicators of stressors in laying hens

A large variation in production performance between laying hen farms has been observed, even though the housing, technical equipment, genetic background and sometimes even feed is similar between farms. This variation in number of eggs, feed conversion ratio and mortality highly affect the farmer's income and also might be related to differences in animal welfare. Suboptimal production also means a waste of raw materials such as feed, water, medicines and labour.

Since the circumstances in which the animals are kept are often similar, it is hypothesized that the daily management is an important factor in explaining this variation in production performance. In order to help the farmer to make better day-to-day decisions about the management, more reliable and actual data should be collected from the poultry house and converted into useful information for the farmer. Keeping the birds in optimum condition can be supported by early detection of stressors, using multiple data sources, like egg quality, bird distribution, noise, litter quality etc.

What you'll be doing

- Identifying the most relevant pathogenic and non-pathogenic stressors in the laying hen industry, including the most predictive indicators of these stressors.
- Investigate predictive indicators during experiments, using different monitoring (sensor) techniques.
- Develop conclusive advices and tools to be offered to farmers.

What we're looking for

- Master degree in Animal Sciences, Biology or Veterinary Science;
- Strong affinity for statistics and data analysis;
- Interested in both fundamental and applied poultry research;
- Excellent organisational and communication skills (English and Dutch);
- Enjoys working both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.

What we offer

- Employment as a researcher at Vencomatic Group, starting with a one year contract with the intention to convert this into a permanent contract.
- Work partly at the innovative and sustainable Venco Campus in Eersel and partly at the Adaptation Physiology Group of Wageningen University in a team of scientists and technicians at both locations.
- Become a member of the Graduate School of Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences (WIAS), which includes joining courses for professional and personal development.

Contact information

Additional information about the vacancy can be obtained from Anne van den Oever, anne.vandenoever@vencomaticgroup.com, or dr.ir. Henry van den Brand, henry.vandenbrand@wur.nl.

Send your application before 6 November 2020 to anne.vandenoever@vencomaticgroup.com. Please include your CV, motivation letter and contact details of at least two references.