

TransformDairyNet Lead Facilitator

Job Description

The Role

Job title:	TransformDairyNet Lead Facilitator
Department:	Agricultural Sciences and Practice
Responsible to:	Pro Vice Chancellor Educations and Resources
Location:	Hybrid working / Home-based
Hours:	Part-time, 14hrs per week (0.4FTE)
Salary:	Grade 8: £14,839 pro rata for 0.4FTE (Grade 8 at £37,099 full-time equivalent)
Term:	Fixed term contract for 12 months, maternity leave cover
Relationships with:	UCD, TransformDairyNet coordinator, and WP1 co-lead, as well as the whole TransformDairyNet consortium

Purpose

[TransformDairyNet](#) is a 36-month (2024-2027), €2.7 million EU-funded project that aims to revolutionize dairy farming practices across Europe by promoting cow-calf contact (CCC) systems. With a consortium of 26 partners, the project will establish 11 National Innovation Practice Hubs and a pan-European Knowledge and Innovation Network. This multi-actor approach will facilitate the co-creation, compilation, and dissemination of CCC -oriented knowledge, focusing on upscaling adoption through farmer-led innovation and peer-to-peer learning. By developing harmonized tools, materials, and engaging with EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, TransformDairyNet seeks to normalize CCC practices, enhancing animal welfare, sustainability, and delivering consumer demand and farming acceptance in alignment with the EU Farm to Fork Strategy. The project's legacy will include a comprehensive CCC knowledge map and a sustainable community of practice and provide a model for accelerating the adoption of novel agricultural practices across the sector.

The successful applicant will cover a maternity leave to lead WP1, which manages our team of facilitators in the mobilisation and maintenance of National Innovation Practice Hubs (NIPs). WP1 works closely with WP2 which supports the activities within NIPs and a pan-European Knowledge and Innovation Network (EKIN). During 2024 the focus of the NIPs has been to collate existing CCC practice (WP3). During 2025 the focus will be to develop living lab ideas which TransformDairyNet fund, and together with their facilitator, NIPs trial novel innovations which address the CCC

challenges, gaps and needs of dairy farmers in each participating country. The living lab process is led by WP4 but delivered through WP1 as facilitators are the main contact and working relationship with the NIPs. This role will therefore collaborate with WP4 task leaders to support facilitators in the mobilisation of the living lab process.

The other main responsibility of this role will be in the mobilisation of a pan-European Knowledge and Innovation Network (EKIN), and organising and coordinating the project activities at the first EKIN meeting in Greece, at the end of May 2025. This meeting will focus on maximising the value of networking opportunities for the delegates, and sharing the outputs of existing CCC practices from across TransformDairyNet (led by WP3). This aspect of the role will therefore require the candidate to work closely with the coordinator, WP3 leaders and the host partner in Greece, to develop and deliver the EKIN programme.

Key Responsibilities

- 1.** Lead and coordinate the work of TransformDairyNet's National Network Facilitators (NNFs) and National Innovation Practice Hubs (NIPs)(WP1).
- 2.** Mobilise and coordinate the activities of the European Knowledge and Innovation Network (in collaboration with WP2).
- 3.** Complete the 1st deliverable report synthesising the activities of the NIPs and EKIN (in collaboration with WP2).
- 4.** Work closely with the project coordinator (Siobhan Mullan) and project manager (Rachel Annan) at UCD to support any other WP tasks delivered in collaboration with WP1.

This role will suit candidates with a strong interest and passion in cow-calf contact (CCC) dairy systems and can utilise their network and CCC experience to support a farmer-led and pan-European network to support the upscaling of CCC systems.

General responsibilities:

- The University is committed to equality of opportunity. All staff are required to comply with current legislation, University policies and good practice guidance.
- All staff are required to act in a way that safeguards the health and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults at all times. The post holder must be familiar with and adhere to appropriate safeguarding policies and guidance and participate in related mandatory/statutory training. Managers have a responsibility to ensure their team members understand their individual responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- All staff are required to participate in the University appraisal process and should ensure they are familiar with the process and plan time to prepare for their appraisal. Following the appraisal, staff are expected to undertake in any necessary learning and development and work towards the objectives that have been set.

- The University expects staff to attend any training designated as mandatory and to undertake learning and development activities to support their role. Managers must facilitate learning and development within their teams.
- It is a condition of employment that staff will not disclose any information obtained in the course of their duties other than to those entitled to receive it. The post holder must ensure that the confidentiality of personal data remains secure and that restricted information or highly restricted information to which they have access remains confidential during and after their employment at Royal Agricultural University. All staff must undergo appropriate data protection training as required.
- All absence from work must be reported in accordance with the University's absence procedures and recorded on iTrent.
- The University acknowledges its responsibility to provide a safe, smoke free environment, to its employees, service users and visitors. It is the policy of the University not to allow smoking on University premises other than in specifically designated areas.

University Values

As a University we have chosen five values to underpin our learning community. These are the values which we will all work by and for which we want the RAU to be known. We are:

- Collaborative - we believe in the power of working together. We are stronger as a community of practice - inspiring each other, identifying shared goals, and providing reciprocal support leads to greater success.
- Open-Minded - we are receptive to new ideas and we value the diversity of experiences and skills. We are committed to listening to everyone across the RAU community.
- Resourceful - we adopt creative approaches to achieve our goals while setting higher standards, promoting professionalism and sustainability.
- Responsible - individually and collectively we take accountability for our actions working with integrity to achieve the highest ethical standards.
- Inclusive - we acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to maintaining an environment that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.

Person Specification

Requirements The post holder must be able to demonstrate:	Essential or Desirable	Measured By A) Application Form B) Interview C) Presentation
Qualifications:		
Educated to Hons degree level and Masters in an agricultural or related discipline	E	A

Requirements The post holder must be able to demonstrate:	Essential or Desirable	Measured By A) Application Form B) Interview C) Presentation
Experience, period of study and/or qualification related to CCC dairy systems	E	A, B and C
Knowledge, Experience and Skills:		
Understanding and knowledge of current and emerging issues and opportunities in the dairy sector, including CCC systems	E	B and C
Experience of working closely with and facilitating dairy farmer and other dairy actor groups	E	B & C
Experience of working with and engaging multi-actor stakeholders in the dairy sector	E	B & C
Established relationships with relevant dairy stakeholder networks and experience of building capacity for wider engagement	E	A
Experience of managing multi-actor partners in projects	E	B & C
Excellent project management skills	E	B & C
Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to inspire and engage	E	A, B & C
Excellent event planning, coordination and management skills	E	B & C
Proven IT skills, especially MS Office, including MS Teams and interactive engagement platforms (for example: Mentimeter, Padlet, Miro, Mural etc).	E	A, B & C

Application Procedure

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send:

- University [Application Form](#) together with the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) available on the University website www.rau.ac.uk) – you may attach your up to date CV if you wish to add additional information.
- Details of two referees who must be people who can comment authoritatively on you as a person and as an employee in relation to the level of the post, and must include your current or most recent employer or their representative.
- Please forward to the HR Team, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS or via email to jobs@rau.ac.uk stating where you saw the advert for the role

- Informal Enquiries to Professor Siobhan Mullan - TransformDairyNet Coordinator siobhan.mullan@ucd.ie
- **Closing date:** 12th January 2025 with **Interviews on:** 24th January 2025.
- Should you be selected for interview please be aware that we are unable to reimburse interview expenses.

The RAU is an equal opportunities employer and we particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic candidates as they are under-represented within the RAU at this level