

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Fellowship: Advancing Dairy Forage Facility Systems

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-MWA-2026-0037

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-MWA-2026-0037

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click APPLY.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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Application Deadline 3/27/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

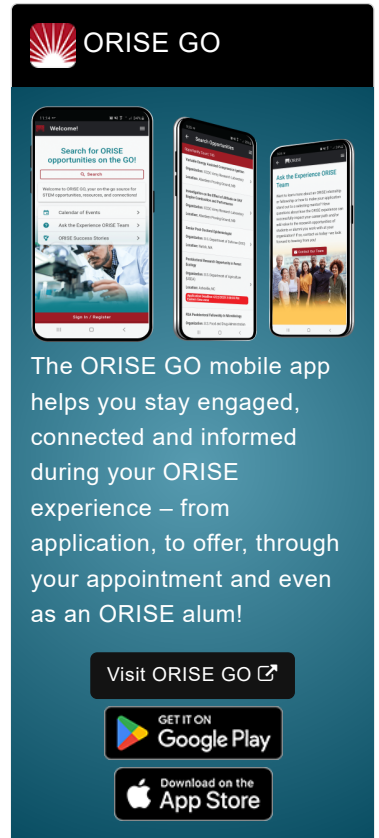
Description *Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

The mission of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center (USDFRC) is to lead the world in integrated dairy forage systems research. The Center is dedicated to providing dairy industry solutions for food security, environmental sustainability, and economic viability through science-based research initiatives focused on improving dairy production systems, soil ecology, forage production, and ecosystem services.

Research Project: The participant will have the opportunity to contribute to the modernization of high-performance agricultural research facilities at the U.S. Dairy Forage

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Systems

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Research Center. This project focuses on transitioning legacy infrastructure to state-of-the-art systems that support cutting-edge dairy forage research. Key areas of engagement include environmental controls, energy efficiency, and biosecurity standards critical to ensuring the integrity of scientific data. Under the guidance of a mentor, the participant will analyze and propose engineering solutions to align facility operations with rigorous research requirements, gaining hands-on experience in biosystems engineering, facility management, and federal compliance processes.

Learning Objectives: Through this fellowship, the participant will have the opportunity to:

- Learn to analyze and interpret complex engineering drawings and schematics, gaining an understanding of how mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems interact within agricultural research facilities.
- Collaborate with engineers and facility managers to explore theoretical solutions for modernizing infrastructure, focusing on energy efficiency, environmental controls, and biosecurity requirements.
- Observe and engage in the stages of federal construction and repair projects, from requirements gathering and design to on-site implementation, fostering a comprehensive understanding of project management in public service.
- Research advancements in agricultural engineering, such as automated climate control systems, and evaluate their potential applications to improve facility operations.
- Synthesize technical observations and findings into professional reports and presentations suitable for review by senior engineering staff, emphasizing clarity and precision.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Brittney Jones (Brittney.Jones@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: February 2026. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend is \$9,000 monthly.**

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established

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through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.Midwest@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a bachelor's degree in one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred skills:

- Prior experience working in or for a federal research facility and familiarity with federal contracting useful for facility projects.

Stipend \$9,000.00 Monthly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree received within the last 60 month(s).

• **Discipline(s):**

◦ **Engineering** (1 [👁](#))

• **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).