

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship - Fermentation of Dairy By-Products

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-NEA-2026-0304

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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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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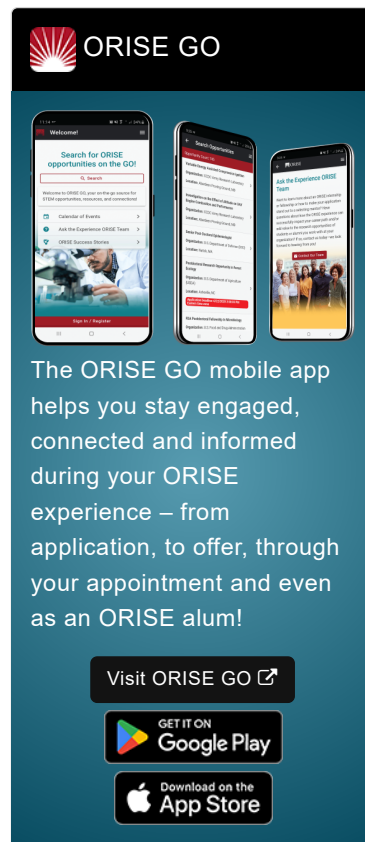
Application Deadline 10/9/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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 Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania.

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.

Research Project: The USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Dairy and Functional Foods Research Unit in Wyndmoor, PA investigates issues related to the utilization of milk, and dairy manufacturing by-products for the development of novel food, bioactive and packaging ingredients. The Unit is seeking a postdoctoral fellow to contribute to research investigating the use of fermentation technologies to convert ice cream by-products into food-grade antimicrobials and ethanol. You will apply your understanding of microbial genetics and physiology to optimize fermentation strategies through novel strain development and modification of bioprocessing



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parameters.

Learning Objectives: You will gain experience in:

1. Recombinant techniques for the genetic modification of lactic acid bacteria or yeast, and;
2. Optimizing fermentation technologies, including the use of bioreactors for controlling process parameters.

You will also have the opportunity to contribute to studies on the scaling-up of fermentation and distillation processes, assessing the quality or bioactivity of recovered products, and investigating applications for microbial metabolites.

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

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: November 2, 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.

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 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.Northeast@ornl.gov and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received or be currently pursuing a doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields (Microbiology, Food Technology, or a closely related field). Degree must have been received within the past two years, or be currently pursuing.

Preferred skills:

- Experience with lactic acid bacteria or food-grade yeast species is preferred.

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- Experience with recombinant DNA technologies (i.e. cloning, CRISPR), ethanol fermentation and distillation, or an understanding of dairy food composition would be beneficial.
- Experience with data collection and analysis, and strong written and oral communication skills.

Stipend \$6,857.00 Monthly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

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

- Requirements**
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 24 months or currently pursuing.
 - **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([4](#) )