

Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding Chief Data Officer Position Description

Job Title: Chief Data Officer
Reports To: Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding Chief Executive Officer
Prepared Date: October 18, 2017

Summary

This position serves as the Chief Data Officer (CDO) of the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) organization. The CDCB is a 501 (c) (5) non-profit organization responsible for calculating and distributing the genetic evaluations and genomic predictions, for managing data storage, and for analyzing and distributing dairy cattle data in the United States. The CDCB allied partners cooperator database is the largest in the world devoted to dairy animals with over 95 million female phenotypic records, more than 2 million animal genotypes and over 500,000 bulls receiving genetic evaluations or genomic predictions.

The collection and need for data continues to grow exponentially in the dairy sector. Genomic technologies amplified the opportunities for using genetic predicting models based on complex and difficult to measure phenotypes. On farm data sensors have become extremely sophisticated and are widely adopted, generating enormous quantities of data points yet marginally explored by centralized hubs. In this context, the CDCB is expected to develop a new generation of data pipelines on behalf of the U.S. dairy industry and the CDO will be the driver of this process.

The Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) is an industry collaboration that benefits the dairy community by providing gold standard genetic evaluations for the improvement of dairy cattle populations and the primary role of Chief Data Officer is insuring that the CDCB has the right data usable in the right ways to operationalize this vision.

The Chief Data officer's role is part developer and strategic visionary for creation of new data pipelines and part data steward for constantly improving data quality. New data types include data generated by automated milking systems sensor devices, existing on-farm data management software, new analytical technologies of milk analyses, data generated by other professional networks servicing dairy herds and complex phenotypes generated at specialized dairy operations.

Constant interaction with allied industry collaborators is imperative for the CDO to fulfill its role.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

New data development:

- Assess the dairy industry demands for information and recommend data development priorities.
- Work in synergy with existing dairy records providers to develop new data streams.
- Negotiate with data controllers on behalf of the CDCB.

- Establish partnerships with organizations with complementary interests that can benefit from the same data streams.
- Pursue external funding to develop new data streams.
- Lead the efforts to track data collections, data purchases, databases, physical data models, and linkages between datasets.

Data quality:

- Improve data quality and how we measure data quality.
- Ensure data is available, reliable, consistent, accessible, secure, and timely to support the mission and activities of the CDCB.
- Actively participate in the CDCB Pursuing Data Quality working group.
- Lead an IT group in developing the tools for new data ingestion, validation and storage.
- Ensure the proper protocols for data acquisition, safety and usage are adopted in the CDCB database.
- Coordinate the development and administration of interfaces for data exchange between the CBCD and collaborating organizations.

Research and Development (R&D)

- Assist the AGIL staff on providing the required data and other means to conduct the R&D required by the CDCB Board of Directors.
- Constantly interact with the AGIL staff and other research partners regarding the ongoing R&D projects reviewing results, assessing the impact of proposed implementations and collaborating with the transition into services.
- Cooperate with other national and international research organizations on data development projects in which the CDCB is involved.

Communications

- Establish a proactive network with CDCB stakeholders and other data providers.
- Participate as speaker on extension and scientific events to present CDCB results and promote CDCB services.
- Write or collaborate on articles to specialized magazines about CDCB services and products.

Qualifications

The individual in this position must be able to perform essential duties satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Education and/or Experience

Master's degree or equivalent in agriculture or applied sciences with a minimum of 5 years' experience.

Experience and success in agricultural data management and analysis is mandatory. Previous experience working with dairy farmers is mandatory. Broad knowledge of the dairy industry is highly desirable.

Knowledge and experience should include:

- Knowledge of the technologies and best management practices applied in modern dairy farms.
- Demonstrated successful leadership of technical teams on organizations with a governance body and expert working groups.
- Ability to work with stakeholders and government agencies to successfully implement and provide results.
- Service oriented attitude.
- Effective communications skills.
- Background and experience in agriculture, agri-food industries or non-profit organizations is preferred.

Salary and Benefits

Salary is commensurate with experience and includes a competitive benefit package.

Travel

Domestic and international travel will be required for meetings and project management. A valid passport or appropriate work permits for entry into the USA and other countries is required. Travel arrangements as appropriate for transport to and from work and outside sites will be expected as normal work effort.

Language Skills

Must have a good command of English with competency in oral and written communication.

Physical Demands

Should be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Work Environment

The CDCB organization under the direction of the CEO operates in a strong team environment, with interaction between internal and external individuals and organizations. Business casual dress with appropriate business dress for meetings and travel is required.

Location

The Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding office is located in Bowie, Maryland.

Application Process and Format

Candidates should submit an electronic file format (PDF or Microsoft Word document) cover letter, resume and two references to hr@uscddb.com. Direct questions about the position can be directed to the CDCB CEO at joao.durr@uscddb.com. Screening will continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

The Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding is an Equal Opportunity Employer.