



COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK


AgriSearch
Driving Excellence & Innovation

About AgriSearch

AgriSearch is Northern Ireland's livestock research and knowledge exchange organisation. Funded by farmers and working closely with industry, government and research partners, our purpose is to improve the profitability, productivity and sustainability of livestock farming through research, innovation and evidence-based decision making.

As AgriSearch enters its next phase of development, we are seeking a Communications Lead to strengthen our engagement with farmers, industry and key stakeholders, communicate trusted evidence and ensure research and innovation deliver maximum practical impact.

The Opportunity

This is an exciting opportunity to join AgriSearch at an important stage in its development as we continue to strengthen our support for Northern Ireland's dairy, beef and sheep sectors through independent research, innovation and knowledge exchange.

The Communications Lead will play a central role in enhancing AgriSearch's profile and ensuring our work reaches farmers, industry, policymakers, funders, research partners and other key stakeholders in a clear, engaging and impactful way. The successful candidate will lead organisational communications, coordinate major events and stakeholder engagement activities, and help translate scientific and technical information into practical messages that support informed decision-making across the livestock sector.

This role offers the opportunity to make a genuine contribution to an organisation that works at the interface between science, farming and industry, helping ensure research delivers meaningful impact for livestock producers and the wider agri-food sector.

The Role

- Develop and deliver AgriSearch's communications and stakeholder engagement strategy.
- Lead organisational communications across media, digital platforms, publications and events.
- Manage relationships with agricultural and mainstream media.
- Prepare high-quality communications materials including reports, newsletters, press releases, case studies and promotional content.
- Support the communication of scientific, technical and project information in a clear, practical and engaging manner.
- Lead the planning and delivery of conferences, stakeholder events and engagement activities.
- Strengthen engagement with farmers, levy payers, industry stakeholders, policymakers, funders and research partners.
- Support organisational reputation management and strategic positioning.
- Help shape informed discussion around emerging issues affecting the livestock sector through clear, evidence-based communications and stakeholder engagement.
- Oversee website, social media and digital communications activity.
- Provide leadership and support to communications officer and external contractors where required.

Who We Are Looking For

Essential Criteria:

- Degree in Communications, Public Relations, Journalism, Marketing, Agriculture, Business or a related discipline.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in communications, stakeholder engagement, public affairs or related roles.
- Experience developing and delivering communication and engagement strategies.
- Strong experience in media relations, digital communications and content development.
- Experience planning and delivering events, conferences or stakeholder engagement activities.
- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to translate complex technical information into clear and engaging content.
- Strong organisational, stakeholder management and project coordination skills.

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience working within the agriculture, agri-food or rural sectors, with an understanding of the issues, opportunities and stakeholders influencing the industry.
- Experience working with a broad range of stakeholders, including industry bodies, government, research organisations, media and membership organisations.

Reporting Structure

The Communications Lead reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer and works closely with colleagues across AgriSearch to support the delivery of the organisation's communications, stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange activities. The post holder will also provide line management and support to the Communications Officer, ensuring the effective delivery of communications across the organisation.

Terms & Benefits

Salary

£38,000 - £42,000

Contract

Permanent appointment.

Working Hours

37.5 hours per week

Location

AgriSearch, Innovation Centre, Large Park, Hillsborough, County Down BT26 6DR, Northern Ireland.

Hybrid Working

AgriSearch operates a hybrid working model, supporting a balance between office, home and field-based working.

Benefits

- Private healthcare scheme.
- Employer pension contribution.
- 23 days annual leave plus public holidays.
- Flexible working arrangements.
- Ongoing professional development and training opportunities.

Application Form

[APPLICATIONFORM-COMMUNICATIONSLEAD.docx](#)

Recruitment Process

The closing date for applications is **5.00pm on Monday 27th July 2026**.

The selection process is expected to consist of two stages. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview during the week commencing **3 August 2026** in the Greater Belfast area.

Candidates successful at first stage may be invited to attend a final interview and/or assessment exercise at a later date.

AgriSearch reserves the right to amend the recruitment process if required.

Further Information

For an informal and confidential discussion about the role, please contact:

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Chief Executive Officer
AgriSearch

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Email: sean@agrisearch.org