



SENIOR SCIENTIFIC LEAD

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK


AgriSearch
Driving Excellence & Innovation



Welcome from the Chair

Thank you for your interest in the position of Senior Scientific Lead with AgriSearch. This is an exciting new role and a significant investment in strengthening AgriSearch's ability to provide independent, evidence-based leadership for the Northern Ireland livestock sector.

As the industry faces increasing challenges and opportunities relating to productivity, sustainability, technology and regulation, access to robust scientific insight has never been more important.

The Senior Scientific Lead will play a pivotal role in helping AgriSearch identify emerging issues, interpret complex evidence and support informed decision-making across the industry. We believe this is a unique opportunity to help shape the future direction of livestock farming and ensure farmers continue to benefit from practical, objective and trusted scientific expertise.

Thank you for considering joining AgriSearch at this important stage in our development. We look forward to receiving your application.

Norman McMordie
Chair, AgriSearch

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 Senior Scientific Lead to strengthen our independent scientific capability and help ensure the organisation remains evidence-led, forward-looking and focused on delivering value for farmers.

The Opportunity

This is a unique leadership role at the interface of science, farming, policy and industry.

The successful candidate will provide scientific leadership across AgriSearch, helping to identify emerging challenges and opportunities, interpret complex scientific evidence and ensure farmers, industry stakeholders and policymakers have access to robust, objective and practical insight.

This is not a laboratory-based research role. Instead, the position focuses on scientific scrutiny, evidence interpretation, strategic insight and helping shape the future direction of livestock farming in Northern Ireland.

The Role

- Represent AgriSearch as a trusted independent voice, communicating research findings, scientific evidence and emerging policy developments to industry, government and other stakeholders.
- Ensure the scientific quality, integrity and credibility of AgriSearch's research, publications and technical outputs, maintaining high standards of evidence and independent scientific assessment.
- Provide independent scientific scrutiny and critical evaluation of research evidence used in policy, regulatory and industry discussions, ensuring that conclusions and recommendations are robust, relevant and applicable to Northern Ireland.
- Identify emerging challenges, opportunities and knowledge gaps, helping to shape future research, innovation and evidence priorities for AgriSearch and the wider industry.
- Lead the AgriSearch research programme ensuring collation and analysis of data, publication of results and dissemination of key findings to farmers and other key stakeholders.
- Champion evidence-led understanding of the productivity, sustainability and future potential of Northern Ireland's dairy, beef and sheep sectors.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with research organisations, industry stakeholders, policymakers and scientific experts nationally and internationally, identifying opportunities for collaboration and innovation.
- Provide scientific leadership for AgriSearch's research and postgraduate activities, ensuring findings are translated into practical insights and effectively communicated to farmers, industry stakeholders and policymakers.

What Success Looks Like

The successful candidate will help ensure that:

- AgriSearch remains a trusted source of independent evidence.
- Emerging challenges are identified early and addressed proactively.
- Research and innovation priorities are focused on industry needs.
- Farmers and stakeholders have access to clear, practical and objective scientific insight.
- AgriSearch strengthens its position as a leading voice in livestock science and innovation.

Who We Are Looking For

Essential Criteria:

- A degree in Agriculture, Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Environmental Science or a related discipline.
- A PhD or equivalent senior scientific experience.
- 10 years experience interpreting and applying scientific evidence.
- Excellent analytical, communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
- The ability to influence, challenge and provide independent scientific judgement.
- Proficient in data analysis and interpretation evidenced by scientific publications.
- Experience of working at the interface between research, industry and policy.

Desirable Criteria:

- Have a comprehensive understanding of Northern Ireland livestock production systems, including the technical, economic, environmental and policy factors influencing the dairy, beef and sheep sectors.
- Experience of translating scientific research into practical recommendations and outcomes for farmers and industry stakeholders.

Reporting Structure

The Senior Scientific Lead reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer and works closely with the Senior Industry Advisor, Board of Trustees and wider AgriSearch team to provide scientific leadership, strategic insight and evidence-based guidance across the organisation.

Terms & Benefits

Salary

Competitive salary commensurate with qualifications, experience and working hours.

Contract

Permanent appointment.

Working Hours

Flexible working arrangements available between 22.5 hours (3 days) and 37.5 hours (5 days) per week, subject to agreement.

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 (pro rata for part-time appointments).
- Flexible working arrangements.
- Ongoing professional development and training opportunities.
- Opportunity to influence the future direction of livestock farming and agricultural innovation in Northern Ireland.

Application Form

[APPLICATIONFORM-SENIORSCIENTIFICLEAD.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 a first-stage 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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AgriSearch

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