Multi-criteria assessment of livestock systems in Australia and Sweden

Brief Description

Livestock systems are important for providing food (especially protein), fibre, and other services; however they can also have a large impact on the environment. The ‘sustainability’ of a production system can be assessed in various ways, e.g. production, energy use, emissions, impact on biodiversity, nutrient cycling. This research project aims to collect field data on contrasting livestock systems and develop ways to assess the complementarities and trade-offs of different assessment criteria. The research will involve field work and systems modelling.

Research locations

The research would focus on two locations:
1. Livestock grazing systems in Tasmania.
2. Dairy production systems around Umeå in Northern Sweden.

Eligibility

The applicant must already have, or must have a strong chance of getting a base PhD scholarship, e.g. an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), Endeavour, Australia Awards. The ASAS scholarship is a top-up only scholarship. The applicant would become a ‘cotutelle’ student, enrolled at both UTAS and SLU (http://www.slu.se/en/).

Potential PhD supervisors

1. Dr David Parsons, Senior Research Fellow, TIA and UTAS, Hobart
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2. Dr Rowan Smith, Research Fellow, TIA and UTAS, Launceston