



# PhD Position: Influence of Roughage on Animal Welfare and Health in Pigs

100% / 1725 Posieux

## good food, healthy environment

The 'Farm Animal Welfare' Research Group conducts projects for assessing and refining housing systems for cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, processes applications as part of the testing and approval process for mass-produced housing facilities, and advises employees of the Cantonal Animal Protection Agencies in the implementation of animal protection legislation for ruminants and pigs.

Weaning is stressful for the piglets, as they are not only separated from the mother sow, but also have to change their diet from milk to solid feed. The aim of this three-year project is to clarify how feeding roughage affects the behaviour and health of suckling and weaned piglets. Several trials will be carried out to optimise roughage feeding and intake. Parameters will be recorded to measure the effects on animal welfare in the short and long term. The findings should lead to recommendations on how weaning stress can be reduced in practice.

## Your tasks

- Development of research questions and experimental design for various project parts
- Conducting experiments and statistical data analyses
- Writing publications in English and contributions to scientific conferences
- Developing recommendations for pig farms in practice

## Your profile

- Completed Master's degree in agronomy, biology, veterinary medicine or comparable disciplines
- Interest in experimental studies on animal welfare and enjoying working with pigs
- Good knowledge of common computer programs and statistics
- Ability to work independently and reliably as well as in a team
- Knowledge of two official Swiss languages and a very good command of written and spoken English

The 'Animal Production Systems and Animal Health' Research Division deals with production systems ranging from forage to milk and meat production, with the aims of rendering these systems multifunctional and sustainable, ensuring the effective use of the farm's own resources, and enabling the closure of nutrient cycles, whilst producing safe, high-quality raw materials. In the field of beekeeping research, it develops the basics of bee health and husbandry, ensuring effective pollination.

Agroscope is the Swiss federal centre of excellence for research in the agriculture and food sector. Its researchers work at a number of sites in Switzerland. Headquartered in Bern-Liebefeld (as of 2026: Posieux), Agroscope is attached to the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER.

We offer you a varied job in an interesting work environment as well as thorough training and a modern research infrastructure. Flexible working hours and good employee benefits are additional perks of the job.

The Federal Administration is attentive to the different needs and backgrounds of its employees and promotes diversity. Equal treatment is a top priority.

If this position interests you and you meet the requirements profile, we look forward to receiving your online application at [www.stelle.admin.ch](http://www.stelle.admin.ch), ref. no. 9596 (English is not an official Swiss language, please choose German, French or Italian as correspondence language).

Additional information can be obtained from Ariane Stratmann, Centre for Proper Housing of Ruminants and Pigs by e-mail at [ariane.stratmann@agroscope.admin.ch](mailto:ariane.stratmann@agroscope.admin.ch) or by phone at +41 58 46 28149 (please do not send applications to this e-mail address).

Start date: 1 July or to be agreed. This is a fixed-term post finishing on 31 July 2027.