# PhD PROGRAM IN VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY
Development of evidence-based mental health literacy program and emergency mental health response model for Ontario agriculture

A funded 3-year PhD program in Epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of Guelph, is open for applications.  The title of the project is "**Development of evidence-based mental health literacy program and emergency mental health response model for Ontario agriculture**."  The program will commence on or before September 1$^{st}$, 2016, depending on availability of a suitable candidate.  The research will use mixed methods (i.e. quantitative and qualitative) to explore the lived experiences of everyday occupational stresses and agricultural emergencies amongst agricultural producers, as well as their help-seeking behaviours, and perceived ideals for mental health programming.  Methods of data collection will include, but are not limited to, key informant interviews and stakeholder workshops.  The developed mental health literacy program will be delivered to members of the agricultural community and formally evaluated.

The candidate is expected to participate fully in all aspects of data collection and analysis as a motivated, ambitious and effective scientific team member. The research program is designed to encourage independent thought, data analysis, and development of strong written and oral communication skills.

Applicants must possess a relevant graduate qualification, and meet the academic standards for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Guelph. It is possible for a particularly well-suited candidate to enter as a Masters of Science student, and progress to a PhD given strong academic and research performance in the MSc program.  The applicant should have a strong background in epidemiology, psychology, social work, or biological sciences, as well as basic statistics.  A background in agriculture would be an asset.  Competency in basic computer programs (e.g. word processing, literature search engines, spreadsheets, graphics presentation) is required.  Competency in statistical and qualitative research software would be an asset.

The stipend for this PhD program is Canadian $20,000 per year, and opportunities to increase the stipend can be pursued, depending on the candidate's academic performance.

Candidates are invited to submit their full curriculum vitae (CV) and a cover letter with a statement of goals and an explanation of their motivation for applying for this project. Three (3) letters of reference will be required for the formal application.  Initial submissions of a CV, cover letter and specific questions about this particular PhD program opportunity, should be directed by email to Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, Department of Population Medicine, at: aqjones@uoguelph.ca.  The deadline for submissions is Friday, July 8, 2016 at noon Eastern Standard Time, or until a suitable candidate is found.

General queries about graduate studies in the Department of Population Medicine should be directed to Graduate Program Assistant (Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Canada; phone 519-

824-4120 ext. 54780, fax 519-763-3117, e-mail: popmedgradsec@uoguelph.ca) or may be answered by visiting https://www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/programs/popmed. Further information on the Department of Population Medicine can be found here: https://ovc.uoguelph.ca/population-medicine/department-population-medicine