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*Dreaming about  
your future?*

*Check out the careers  
of former Animal  
Sciences students in this  
booklet and see in which  
directions you can go!"*

Edition 4

# Animal Sciences



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

# General information

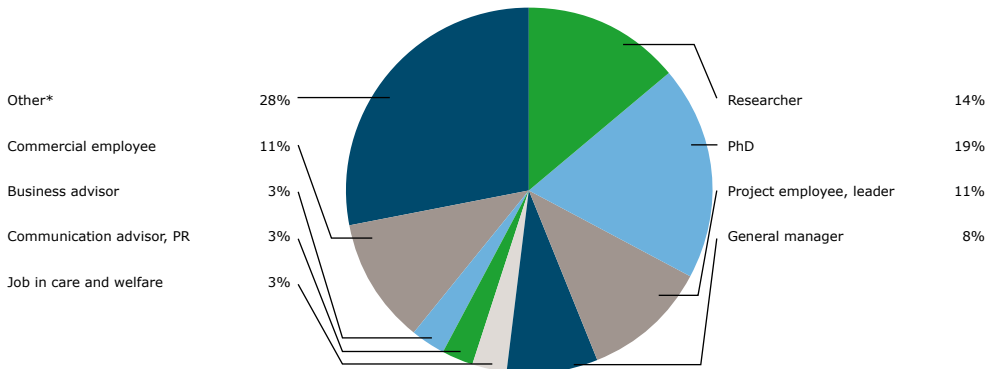
## Animal Sciences

56% had a job within 1 and 3 months  
4,7 months was the average time a graduate  
needed to find a job

57% started at an academic level  
80% started in own/related direction



\*E.g.: consultancies, agricultural sector, financial services, (inter)national organizations, zoos, veterinary branch, ICT-branch  
Source: NAE 2017 (Survey among alumni, graduated in 2015 and 2016)



\*E.g.: financial advisor, administrative assistant, information officer, independent/freelancer, policy officer, teacher  
Source: WO-monitor 2013 (Survey among alumni, graduated in 2011 and 2012)



JANNEKE AELEN | 2017

MS SCHIPPERS, PROJECT MANAGER R&D

Following my MSc Animal Sciences, I started as a project manager at MS Schippers, a company that develops products and services that improve the daily work of the farmer. During my studies I specialised in animal production systems because I find it interesting and important to look at all parts of the production system. In addition to the challenges at animal level, you also learn which consequences solutions have at a social or entrepreneurial level. This knowledge also fits well with my current work. My own motives for working in the animal production sector have always been animal welfare and innovation and I knew that a research position would suit me best. I have chosen to work in the business sector, because I am mostly interested in the practical application. MS Schippers is mainly focused on preventive animal health. In my work I combine the scientific substantiation of products with setting up and conducting trial experiments. Because many trials are carried out at customers, I regularly visit farmers and stay alert to which issues play a role on a farm level. The nice thing about my work is that I have contact with all stakeholders involved in a certain subject and that I work with both pigs, poultry and cattle. I can go deep into subjects, which enables me to keep learning new things.



CHIA-NING LEE | 2017

DE HEUS, TRAINEE

I am originally from Taiwan and I followed the Erasmus Mundus - Sustainable Animal Nutrition and Feeding programme (EMSANF) for my MSc at Wageningen University and

Aarhus University. I graduated in 2017 and since then I work at De Heus as a trainee for the Global Poultry Team. During this 2-year traineeship, I rotate in four different departments - R&D, Formulation, Product Management and a business unit (in a country where De Heus has a production site) – each for six months. I like this trainee position because I can learn how each department works and what the connections are among departments. Also, this traineeship allows me to create a better insight on what suits me best. My MSc in animal nutrition gave me a solid scientific background and helped me to develop quickly into my current job. I would suggest current students to discover themselves as much/deep as possible: to know who you are and which routes you want to take in the future are important. Besides, start searching for the job opportunities that suit you a few months before graduation.



ANNE-MARIEKE SMID | 2015

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, PHD CANDIDATE

After graduating with specialisations in adaptation physiology and animal production systems, I started a PhD at the University of British Columbia (UBC). I did a part of my MSc thesis at UBC, after which I was asked to come back for a PhD! Especially my knowledge about animal welfare during the minor 'Animal Behaviour and Welfare Assessment' at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the theses I wrote, have been a good preparation for my PhD. My research focuses on the welfare of dairy cattle and deals among other things with the preference and motivation of cows to go to a certain 'outdoor area'. The work is very diverse, sometimes I am involved with literature research, another time with an experiment, data analysis or writing papers. When I conduct an experiment I stay on the research farm, so I can also be found

regularly among the cows. It is very nice to do research here, under the motto of 'we will make it work' the most innovative and ground-breaking research is realized. So: follow your heart and interests, even if you sometimes have to look a bit further than the Netherlands!



HANS HUIJBERS | 2013

CARGILL ANIMAL NUTRITION, TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

After graduating, I immediately started working in the premix branch of Cargill. Within this international company I work as sales manager on Sales and Support of Cargill's piglet feed range in the Benelux. For this job, I look - together with our customers (compound feed companies) - into how the pig farmer can achieve the best results with our products. I give support to feed consultants and pig farmers on management and application of our products. What I like about this job is that I am close to research and product development, but also stand almost daily between the pigs in the stable. For me as a farmer's son this is the ideal combination!



SASHA VAN DER KLEIN | 2015

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, CANADA, PHD CANDIDATE

Directly after my graduation I worked for a couple of months as a poultry research team assistant at Cargill. Through this position I connected with my current supervisor at the University of Alberta, Dr. Martin Zuidhof, who stimulated me to move across the ocean and start my PhD in precision feeding of poultry. My practical experience during

internships and theses in my BSc and MSc allowed me to successfully start my PhD programme and to win the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. I'm often in the barns between the chickens or I'm writing my thesis, but I also spend time travelling, camping, and hiking in the Rocky Mountains or horse riding on farms close to Edmonton. I got involved as well in the Graduate Students' Association, the University-wide organization which advocates for graduate students (MSc and PhD students). In my role as president, I served in many of the higher level decision making committees in the University. This is completely unrelated to my research or education, but a fantastic opportunity to develop my career. My advice would be, take the opportunities you come across and don't be afraid to say yes!



ATHANASIOS PATSIOGIANNIS | 2017

ALLTECH, IRELAND, RUMINANT TRAINEE

After I got my MSc Animal Sciences diploma I found a job as a ruminant trainee at Alltech. For this position I am involved in a variety of projects, I perform technical sales support and make diet formulations. This particular traineeship is a European programme funded by Alltech. The selection process involved many different steps and the fact that I got an MSc-degree from Wageningen gave me many credits compared to the other candidates. Wageningen University is a very famous, well known and well recognized educational institute when it comes to animal and plant sciences. Secondly, during my studies I managed to acquire strong scientific knowledge in animal nutrition and most importantly, it taught me to think out of the box. Thinking out of the box is a prerequisite for working independently in projects and thinking about new ideas and realistic solutions. Overall, studying at Wageningen was a great experience.



When I reflect on this, I can clearly say that I developed my research and scientific skills and acquired loads of academic knowledge which gave me a strong foundation to begin my career in the livestock industry. Getting into the feed industry not only helped me to see the practical application of research but also to become a more complete professional person (academic theory plus real life practice). So, I would advise new students to choose the subject of their specialisation carefully. Also I would advise you to check what the job opportunities are before completing your MSc studies.



MELISSA HAMMINGA | 2015

STICHTING HULPHOND NEDERLAND

(ASSISTANCE DOG FOUNDATION THE NETHERLANDS)

During my MSc thesis I came into contact with Stichting Hulphond Nederland (foundation for assistance dogs in The Netherlands). They offered me an internship to conduct research within a group of therapy dogs that was used for therapy with children with a developmental delay or mental disorders. After a nice internship I could continue to work at the foundation. In my daily activities I support the therapy that is given and in the future I will follow a course in order to be able to give this therapy myself. In addition, I supervise students who come to do research, just like I did. We are also constantly working on the improvement of processes to make the conditions for the dogs, clients and employees as optimal as possible. During my work I can often put my acquired knowledge of the study into practice. I want to advise future students to choose your own path during your studies!





VERA VAN BUSSEL | 2017

HENDRIX GENETICS, JUNIOR GENETICIST AQUACULTURE BREEDING

In 2017 I finished my MSc Animal Sciences. My specialisation was animal breeding and genetics, in the direction of quantitative genetics. Currently, I'm working as a junior geneticist aquaculture breeding at Hendrix Genetics, a large animal breeding company in the Netherlands. The job happened to be available near the end of my internship at Hendrix Genetics, so I applied and got the job! My main tasks are to gather and store data, carry out calculations, checking the results, selecting the best animals and monitoring progress. Apart from that there are always several projects, for example to investigate the genetic base of a trait, to smoothen the production process and much more! I also travel to different parts of the world, visiting farms and conferences. Here's some advice if you're studying Animal Sciences at the moment: 1. Learn to work with different statistical/programming programs. 2. Work on your experience: extracurricular activities are important once you start applying for jobs (as are good grades for the important courses!). 3. Opt for an internship rather than a second thesis. It will give you experience and a good reference and might just get you the job you want! 4. But most of all: have fun!



PAU AYMERICH MONTRABETA | 2017

AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA/VALL COMPANYS GROUP,  
PHD CANDIDATE/RESEARCHER IN SWINE NUTRITION

I started studying a BSc in agricultural engineering at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Barcelona). I finished my BSc in 2015 doing a thesis at the Nutrition and

Animal Welfare Service of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). Here my interest for animal nutrition started. Afterwards, I began my MSc Animal Sciences at Wageningen University, specializing in animal nutrition and a minor in animal production systems and finished my MSc studies in 2017 with an internship at the Vall Companys Group. This is a group of companies that integrates farm production processes, so provides all services for swine and broiler production such as feed, medicine, transport and slaughter-processing. At the end of my MSc, I had the chance to start working at this company while doing a PhD at UAB. Currently I work as a researcher in swine nutrition. My daily activities encompass conducting trials with sows, weaned piglets or growing pigs and performing statistical analyses and literature reviews. I think that studying the MSc Animal Sciences taught me how to think and solve problems or challenges in animal nutrition, with a special emphasis on modelling. Also, doing an MSc in English gave me good skills which I now need for my job.



MEIKE FISCHER | 2017

MAREL POULTRY, RESEARCH SCIENTIST POULTRY PHYSIOLOGY

During my studies in animal sciences, I noticed that I was interested in meat production, not during the rearing period, but more towards the end product. I decided to follow some courses related to foods of animal origin. At that moment, I felt that this was what I was looking for. I wanted to do my MSc thesis at a company, where I would experience working inside the industry. Fortunately, Marel Poultry had many topics for my thesis. Afterwards, Marel could also help me with finding an internship, due to their network. Currently, I work at Marel as a research scientist poultry physiology. Marel is a manufacturer for slaughter equipment. During my work, I focus on the primary process

of poultry processing. This is the part from stunning up until plucking. Research on the physiology of the bird in relation to the product quality is my daily task. This means that I am not only working at my desk, but also often found in the processing plants to do tests. If you have the possibility, I would really recommend doing your thesis at a company. The threshold to contact, for example, internships and future job possibilities is much lower and way easier!



JEROEN KRIJNEN | 2011

NUSCIENCE GROUP, PRODUCT MANAGER CATTLE

I work as a product manager cattle at Nuscience Group (producer of feed additives). My job is to position new products for specific markets and provide technical support to sellers and customers. In addition, I analyse and use the demands from the market to manage the development of new products. To that end, I work closely together with the Product Development, Sales, Production, Purchasing and Quality Departments. After my Higher Professional Education (HBO) study Animal and Livestock Management (Dier- en Veehouderij), I opted for the MSc Animal Sciences. In my current work, both programmes come in handy. At my HBO-study I did much project-based work and during my MSc I learned to assess and apply knowledge with a strong scientific basis in an international working environment.



GUANLIN WANG | 2017

TROUW NUTRITION, JUNIOR GLOBAL PRODUCT MANAGER

I joined the double-MSc-degree programme Erasmus Mundus - Sustainable Animal Nutrition and Feeding (EM-SANF) provided by Wageningen University and Aarhus University (Denmark), between 2015 and 2017. Before this programme, I had obtained a BSc and consecutive MSc degree in veterinary medicine in China and had worked around 3 years in China afterwards. During my studies at Wageningen University, I followed a 5-month internship at a ruminant research center of the Research & Development (R&D) Department of Trouw Nutrition (The Netherlands). This experience was very valuable for my following job-hunting, because I could not only apply my practical skills, e.g. trial and project management, but also had access to the network inside the company. After graduation, I was lucky to get a position as a junior global product manager in the Feed Additive Division of Trouw Nutrition. My main responsibility is to support the lifecycle of a specific product portfolio, including giving sales-training at operational companies across the world, generating commercial materials from validation trials and generating a new product and/or service development together with R&D. Generally speaking, it is a position with a mixture of technical and commercial responsibilities. So far, I enjoy this a lot because this diversity helps to broaden my vision and gives me more flexibility for my future career development. For those MSc-students who would like to find a job in the industry rather than to go for a PhD position, I would strongly advice to do at least one company internship. The more you try, the more opportunities to expect.



ANNE TER BRAAK | 2017

AGRIFIRM, LAYING HEN NUTRITIONIST

After high school I had an amazing time studying Animal Sciences in Wageningen. My BSc and MSc with animal nutrition as a specialisation brought me, besides knowledge, also a lot of (international) contacts. I was given the opportunity to start as a laying hen nutritionist at Agrifirm after graduation in September 2017. For this job I am responsible for the laying hen feeds coming from three factory's spread over Northwest-Europe. I manage the feed recipes, keep track of the ingredient and nutrient restrictions, and am in close contact with our specialists at the farm. For these tasks, not only knowledge about animal feed but also about the daily work and challenges on a farm is required. This provides a nice combination of practice and theory. Besides that, I am involved in different innovation projects within our company. All of this makes being a nutritionist at Agrifirm very diverse and challenging. During my studies I have learned to develop technical and social skills which are useful in my job. Most important is that you should do something you like to do, which makes it easier to graduate and eventually find a job that fits you!



MELANIE KOK | 2017

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH, RESEARCHER AGRI-LOGISTICS CHAINS

During my MSc Animal Sciences I specialised myself in animal production systems because I was interested in the entire production chain. I also focused as much as possible on an international perspective, mainly towards tropical animal production.



I have deliberately looked for a job that is more broadly oriented than the field of animal sciences, because I am mainly interested in the stakeholders in the production chain rather than the animal. Since December 2017, I started my current job as a researcher in agri-logistics chains at Wageningen Food and Biobased Research, part of Wageningen University & Research. This job mainly focuses on the optimization of (international) fresh chains (mainly fruit and vegetables), food waste and the reuse of residual flows. We only do project work and the tasks are different in every project. However, I mainly focus on data collection and data analysis. This career choice is a result of the choices I made during my education and my passion that I developed for my specialisation. In the end, my study did not directly connect to the job I was looking for, but the academic skills I learned did contribute to prepare myself for my current work in collecting and analysing data, writing literature studies and final reports. I would like to convey to future students that even though you find out during your studies, that your interests differ from your study programme, the freedom within Wageningen University gives you the opportunity to determine your own choices and directions, and to find your passions.



ANNE-LISE MARY | 2017

DSM, SWITZERLAND, TECHNICAL MARKETEEER

During my studies I followed a double-MSc-degree programme at the Ecole Supérieure d'Agricultures (France) and Wageningen University. After holding two MSc degrees, I was looking for a job in applied research & development. I currently work at DSM where I am responsible for the technical marketing for Eubiotics in Europe, Middle East and Africa, for which I travel about 25-30% of the time. I test and promote pre- & probiotics, essential oil products and all products related to animal gut health.

This means that I do literature studies, participate in the elaboration of research protocols and I organise and monitor trials. Once I get the finalised scientific results, I write the storyline of the product, which is used for marketing. I got to know DSM through my MSc internship. As the DSM team was very satisfied with my work and results, they called me back some time later. The combination of knowledge I obtained during my two MSc-programmes helps me every day to synthesise, summarise and translate information of a scientific level into a technical or commercial level and the other way around. During my studies I got the scientific background to be able to perform trial experiments, I learned to look at a very small scale (molecular, cellular) and got to understand complex physiological mechanisms. I would like to advise current students not to focus too much on only one species, topic, skill or knowledge and to try to diversify your skills and knowledge by internships, educational trips, or by studying abroad.



NIEK LAMERS | 2013

ERASMUS MC CANCER INSTITUTE, DATA- AND TRIAL MANAGER

After my graduation I made a detour and ended up at my current employer, the Erasmus MC Cancer Institute. I work at the Clinical Trial Center as a data and trial manager at clinical studies. The aim of these studies is to improve the treatment of mainly non-solid cancers, such as leukaemia. As a trial manager I have a spin-in-the-web job where I, at the crossroads of research nurses, laboratories, various committees, doctors, study sponsor, legislator, finance and pharmaceutical companies, manage the safe progress of the study under my responsibility. As a data manager, I interpret data that originates from a clinical study. The course of treatment and the health of the participating patients is evaluated. For this job, a clear understanding of clinical measurement and treatment



methods in combination with problem-solving ability is very helpful. I would like to give prospective students the advice to look out for interesting vacancies during your studies. The requirements of these vacancies are useful and motivating to organize a part of your study.



KIKKIE POELS | 2017

AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (AMC), PHD CANDIDATE

Right now I am working as a PhD candidate at the AMC where I study atherosclerosis, an inflammatory disease of the artery wall. More specifically, I look at the effect of immune therapy (as used in cancer medication) on the development of atherosclerosis. This job gives me great variation of laboratory work, mouse experiments and doing what I love most: learning new things. My background in animal sciences has quickly made me the mouse expert of the department and the clinical setting gives me the opportunity to explore the human side of things. When I started my study in animal sciences, I never expected to end up working in a hospital, but animal sciences can take you to more human applied research. How did I do it? I steered my MSc towards combined human and animal biology and I chose to do the research variant. Both my graduation projects I did at the Human and Animal Physiology group which also made me go to the University of California Davis to work in a very renowned lab and in a clinical environment (always go abroad when you can!). This resulted in a solid background in immunology and metabolism and made me PhD-ready.



PAULINE LOISEAU | 2016

TERRENA, R&D PROJECT MANAGER

I graduated back in March 2016 (double MSc: Wageningen University + French agricultural engineering degree) and was hired at the Research and Innovation Department of Terrena, a French agricultural cooperative. I work there as a research & development project manager in animal nutrition and health. My job is to coordinate applied research projects in various fields (mostly poultry) on animal health and de-medication, performance improvement, animal welfare, etc. Daily, it consists of scientific & technical monitoring, development & implementation of test protocols, data retrieving & analysis and also some administrative work and task planning. I work with external partners, Terrena's Department and the members (farmers) of the cooperative and I even supervised interns! The scientific and structured way of thinking I learned at Wageningen University is a real advantage in building solid cases for each project. So, even though we perform field tests, the results can be recognized and used later on. It's all worth it, work on your classes, do one of your theses outside Wageningen University, so you can discover the business world. And enjoy your time there, I miss it more than I like to admit!



LOTTE HEBBINK | 2016

PAS REFORM, JUNIOR INCUBATION SPECIALIST

During my MSc, I specialised in the direction of adaptation physiology. In 2016 I graduated and started working at Pas Reform as a junior incubation specialist at the Research & Development Department. Pas Reform is a worldwide supplier of integrated

hatchery solutions like incubators, climate control and hatchery automation. A significant part of my job consist of designing and performing tests to validate new ideas and products. I design the protocols, but I also perform the tests in the field, gather the data and analyse it. I like this complete involvement and the variety of activities and skills that come with it. Besides these R&D activities, I am also part of the Pas Reform Academy. This means that I have to keep my knowledge about incubation up-to-date by visiting lectures, reading papers, learning from my experienced colleagues, giving presentations and writing articles. Many of these skills I learned during my BSc and MSc at Wageningen University. During my studies, I found it hard to imagine what job would fit with my interests. It all became clearer during my internship and during that period I really learned more about myself. So don't panic if you do not know your dream job before graduating, it will come with time!



PAUL OOMEN | 2011  
HATCHTECH B.V., CONSULTANT

I currently work as a consultant at HatchTech, an international company that produces incubators, chick transport systems and chick collection systems. I am responsible for the organization, coordination and execution of incubation techniques in The Netherlands and abroad. I also have a strong advisory role and regularly travel to clients all over the world to help with specific issues or general quality assurance. In this job, the broad basis that I have gained during my studies in animal sciences is very useful. The knowledge I have on embryonic development, anatomy and immunology, but also business administration, comes in handy every day.



KARINA HAUGE JOHANSEN | 2014

KLOSSER INNOVATION AS, NORWAY, PROJECTLEADER

I followed a BSc in animal sciences at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Norway and did a European MSc in animal breeding and genetics at the NMBU & Wageningen University during which I specialised in quantitative genetics. A few months after my graduation, I was hired by Klosser Innovation AS, which is an innovation company with a main focus on bio-economy. They wanted to start a breeding programme for arctic char (including roe-production), as a foundation for land based aquaculture around the inland rivers in Norway. My job was to find and bring genetic material (good char populations) and do the planning, execution and administration of the breeding programme. Along the way I have done a lot of different tasks, including data collection, tagging, selection, writing project applications, international collaboration, down to feeding the fish. In addition to this job, I do the administration of Heidner Biocluster (business cluster for innovations in sustainable food production), which gives me a good overview of the activities in the cluster and the development of new bio-economical businesses. The animal science education prepared me quite well for these two jobs by providing me with broad knowledge on agriculture and the world's food safety/security, and more specialised knowledge within animal breeding and use of technology. My tips for current students are to grab all opportunities to learn more, visit places and try to get the whole picture in addition to specializing in your favourite interest.



LINDA KRIJGSMAN | 2013

INHOLLAND UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES,  
LECTURER ANIMAL AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

After my graduation, I started working at Inholland University of Applied Sciences (Hogeschool Inholland) in Delft as a lecturer-expert at the Animal and Livestock Management programme. For my job I am both a teacher (giving lessons, supervising graduation projects and coaching) and a project researcher in various projects in my field. During my studies in animal sciences I have acquired broad knowledge of animal husbandry, which I can perfectly use in the diversity of my job. Currently I am involved in the fields of animal nutrition, economy and breeding. In addition, during my studies I have followed courses in the field of didactic skills, which now also come in handy. The step from student to teacher was a special experience for me. One moment you sit in the lecture room and the other moment you stand in front of the class. This fast transfer has ensured that I can connect well with the students and I certainly see that as an advantage.



SIFRA VAN DER VIS | 2013

NETHERLANDS FOOD AND CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY AUTHORITY (NVWA),  
SENIOR INSPECTOR VETERINARY MEDICINE

I first studied veterinary medicine for 2 years in Ghent (Belgium) and decided in 2009 to start with Animal Sciences in Wageningen. I finished my MSc in 2013 (adaptation physiology specialisation with an economic minor) and I did my internship at AgResearch in New Zealand. After my graduation, I went to Australia to work for a horse behaviour

scientist and investigated opportunities to do a PhD there. Because I had to bring my own funding for this PhD I went back to Europe to write a good research proposal and apply for a European grant. Meanwhile I had some temporary jobs to pay my living. One of these jobs was at the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) as inspector agriculture. My PhD plans came to a lower level and I eventually stayed at the NVWA. As an inspector at the NVWA, I carried out inspections on farms and at veterinary practices, where I mainly looked at animal welfare and veterinary medicine use. In 2017 I completed a management development process and became team leader of a team that deals with internal processes and data analysis. This was very interesting, but I missed the animals sciences content and I still had that PhD in my mind. So recently I made the switch to a policy job in the area of veterinary medicines and animal welfare. For this job I am concerned with the way in which the NVWA can best supervise compliance with laws and regulations and I am a contact person for the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the KNMvD (Dutch Royal Society of Veterinary Medicine) among others. Doing a PhD in addition to my current position is one of the possibilities, so that is probably the next step.



PETER VAN ADRICHEM | 2011

CARGILL ANIMAL NUTRITION, RESEARCH SCIENTIST RUMINANTS

Since my graduation I have been working at Cargill as a research scientist ruminants. At the experimental farm in Velddriel, I am responsible for setting up and carrying out feed experiments with mainly dairy cows. This job fits in perfectly with my studies in animal sciences, in which research and thus the generation of new knowledge is central. The aim of my research is to develop new products to, for example, improve health and feed

efficiency. Cargill is a large American company that is active in various areas and also has a food branch in addition to animal feed. Making contact with specialists both inside and outside the company and keeping abreast of developments in the academic world is certainly important for my work. Skills that I gained from the study association, among other things, come in handy. Project teams usually consist of colleagues from all over the world. The international character of Wageningen as well as an internship abroad have helped me very well to lead this in the right direction. The direct link between research and practice is what really makes my job fantastic!



The way to  
your top  
starts with  
Animal  
Sciences



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