

REVIEW

regarding the competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cattle Breeding and Buffalo Breeding", announced in State Gazette issue 41 of 05 May 2026, with candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov, from the Department of "Animal Science" at the Faculty of Agronomy, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, appointed in accordance with Order No. RD 16-813 of 29.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, as a member of the scientific jury

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Teodora Spasova Angelova, Agricultural institute – Stara Zagora, Agricultural Academy – Professional field: Animal Husbandry 6.3, Higher education area 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Scientific specialty: "Breeding of Farm Animals, Biology and Biotechnics of Reproduction", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD-16-813/26.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University.

1. General data on the candidate's career and thematic development;

Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov was born on 31.05.1986. He completed his secondary education in 2004 at the "Hristo Botev" Vocational School of Technics and Technology in the town of Smolyan, and during the period 2004–2010 obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the specialties "Animal Husbandry" and "Selection and Reproduction of Animals" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

After successfully defending his dissertation in 2015, he obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", code 04.02.01, "Breeding of Farm Animals, Biology and Biotechnics of Reproduction". From 2011 to 2014 he worked as a breeding expert at the Association for Breeding of Local Cattle Breeds, and from 2017 to 2025 he also worked as a breeding expert at the National Association for Beef Cattle Breeding in Bulgaria. For a considerable period he held the position of Chief Expert for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding at the Main Directorate for Control and Coordination of Breeding Activities of the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry – Sofia.

He has carried out teaching activity since 13.03.2017 to the present, first as an assistant and later as a chief assistant in "Cattle Breeding and Buffalo Breeding" at the Department of "Animal Science", Faculty of Agronomy, Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

He delivers lectures and exercises in the following disciplines:

- ❖ "Biological Foundations of Cattle and Buffalo Breeding"
- ❖ "Technology of Cattle and Buffalo Breeding"
- ❖ "Cattle Breeding"
- ❖ "Geographically and Breed-Protected Products"
- ❖ "Management of Genetic Resources in Cattle and Buffalo Breeding"
- ❖ "Technological Design in Animal Husbandry"

He has English language proficiency at level B2.

2. General description of the materials submitted.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Karamfilov is participating with a total output of 27 works, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – 27 in number, of which:

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 3, which are not subject to review;
- Publications with impact factor – 9;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 12;
- Publications in conference proceedings – 3;

The candidate's personal contribution in the 24 works under review is illustrated by the fact that he is sole author of 7, first author of 8, second author of 7, and third or subsequent author in the remaining 3.

No textbooks or teaching aids have been published to date.

24 works are subject to analysis for the preparation of this opinion.

The candidate meets all the indicators for the academic position of "Associate Professor", in accordance with the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2, 3 and 5 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Annex to Art. 1a of the Regulations for its Implementation. The materials submitted for the present competition are correctly structured and clearly presented. According to the submitted summary of fulfilment of the minimum national and additional requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Karamfilov has a total of 689 points across all indicators, against a required minimum of 550, thereby exceeding the necessary threshold. The distribution by indicator is as follows:

Indicator A – Defended dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 2015 – 50 points;

Indicator B – 10 scientific publications submitted in lieu of a monograph, published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 374 points.

Indicator D – 14 articles submitted, published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in a world-renowned database of scientific information – 225 points.

Indicator E – 3 cited articles submitted, with 6 citations. Despite the small number of cited articles indicated, I am convinced that the actual number of citations is considerably higher, but in accordance with the requirements only these are indicated – 90 points.

The total impact factor of the publications: Web of Science JIF is 5.3.

3. Main directions in the candidate's research work. Demonstrated skills or aptitude for leading research (project leadership, attracted external funding, etc.).

Chief Assistant Karamfilov has participated as author of one and co-author in the development of 4 breeding programmes for cattle breeds (Aberdeen Angus, Limousin, Galloway, Montbéliarde and Simmental) reared in the Republic of Bulgaria.

6 participations of the candidate in international scientific conferences and national scientific forums with international participation are indicated.

He is the leader of 1 scientific project at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, of 2 projects under the National Science Programme "Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers" – 2019 and 2020, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science. He actively participates in the successful completion of activities under the National Programme "Intelligent Animal Husbandry" and the National Science Programme "Reproductive Biotechnologies in Animal Husbandry in Bulgaria" – REPROBIOTECH, and is also a member of the team of internal projects at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

4. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical training and activity. His role in the training of young scientific personnel.

In his teaching activity, Chief Assistant Dr. Karamfilov demonstrates responsibility, consistency and a good attitude towards students. He possesses the ability to build direct contact with them and to apply an individual approach suited to their knowledge and needs. His ability to present teaching material clearly and comprehensibly, as well as his readiness to provide assistance and consultation, contribute to students' positive attitude towards the learning process. His authority and good reputation among students are indicative of the quality of his teaching work.

Of particular significance is his involvement in the preparation and scientific supervision of students (bachelor's and master's level). My personal impression is that the candidate is distinguished by an individual approach to students and the ability to create a favourable and motivating learning environment. In his teaching activity he pays attention to the needs and abilities of each student; his good attitude towards students, accessibility and readiness to provide assistance when difficulties arise contribute to building trust and respect between teacher and students.

This approach has a positive effect on students' attitude towards the learning process. They perceive him as a competent, responsive and good teacher, to whom they can turn for advice and support. The positive attitude and respect he enjoys among students are indicative of the success of his teaching work and of his ability to build an effective relationship with his students.

5. Significance of the results obtained, evidenced by citations, publications in prestigious journals, awards, membership in international and national scientific bodies, etc.;

From the submitted citation report, it is clear that Dr. Karamfilov's works are cited by authors publishing in highly reputable journals – Animals, Animal, Acta Fytotechnica et Zootechnica, and others. The total SJR of the cited articles is 3.701, which is a good testament to the candidate's scientific work.

6. Significance of the contributions to science and practice. Reasoned answer to the question of the extent to which the candidate has a clearly defined profile of research work;

The candidate's scientific contributions are directed towards the development of modern cattle breeding in Bulgaria through research mainly in the field of beef productivity (a small part of the research is directed towards milk productivity), growth, reproduction, selection, behaviour, welfare and adaptability of cattle, with a significant part of the results having direct practical applicability. The significance of the candidate's scientific activity in the field of beef cattle breeding should be emphasised. This direction has an important place in the development of animal husbandry in Bulgaria, while at the same time being characterised by the need to attract and establish a new generation of young scientists and researchers to work actively on the problems of this sector of cattle breeding.

On the basis of the submitted report, the scientific contributions can be briefly systematised into the following main directions:

1. Beef cattle breeding and sustainable development

Comprehensive studies have been conducted on the exterior, growth and productivity of beef cattle breeds reared in Bulgaria, with a practical focus on improving technologies and breeding work.

2. Growth and development of calves

The growth capacity of calves of the Aberdeen Angus and Limousin breeds has been studied under different rearing systems, including organic production, with practical guidelines determined for the optimal age of insemination and fattening.

3. Carcass traits and meat quality

Original results have been obtained on the carcass traits and fatty-acid profile of the meat of the Bulgarian Grey cattle breed, revealing the potential of the local breed for the production of quality output. The cuts obtained from the breed can be classified as high-quality output for the production of meat products with a protected geographical indication.

4. Optimisation of reproduction

Approaches for oestrus synchronisation, artificial insemination and the use of sexed semen in beef cattle have been developed and tested, with potential for practical application on farms. Insemination protocols have been tested in beef heifers and cows.

5. Reproductive and selection traits

The influence of genetic and environmental factors on reproductive indicators – service period, calving interval, days open – has been studied. Important contributions are also represented by the studies on calving ease, maternal instinct and temperament, which are of direct relevance both to breeding work and to improving animal welfare.

6. Behaviour and welfare of animals

For the first time in Bulgaria, studies have been conducted on the temperament of beef and dairy cattle under different technological conditions, contributing to improving humane treatment and the safe rearing of animals.

7. Milk productivity and breed adaptation

Results have been obtained on the productive traits and adaptation of the Montbéliarde, Simmental and Holstein breeds under Bulgarian conditions. The influence of the sire and of lactation order on milk productivity has been established.

8. Physiological status and adaptability

Biochemical indicators and the adaptive capacities of different cattle breeds under pasture rearing and various natural-climatic conditions have been studied. The physiological status of 3 beef cattle breeds introduced into Bulgaria has been studied: Blonde d'Aquitaine, Chianina and Marchigiana.

The candidate's scientific contributions are distinguished by thematic consistency and practical orientation. They cover important aspects of modern cattle breeding – exterior and growth of animals, reproductive traits, calving ease, maternal instinct and temperament, milk and beef productivity, product quality, as well as the physiological status and welfare of cattle. A significant part of the results obtained are of an applied scientific nature and can be used to improve breeding work, rearing technologies and the management of the reproductive process on cattle-breeding farms. It should also be noted that some of the studies are among the first of their kind in Bulgaria – for example, with regard to the exterior, temperament, maternal instinct, carcass traits and adaptation of individual cattle breeds.

In the context of the limited presence of young scientists working specifically in the field of beef cattle breeding, the candidate's scientific activity is of additional significance. His consistent work in this field contributes to the development of scientific potential, to continuity between generations of researchers, and to the establishment of beef cattle breeding as a promising direction in Bulgarian agricultural science.

I consider that the scientific contributions presented are sufficiently significant and convincingly demonstrate Dr. Karamfilov's active and purposeful work in the field of cattle breeding. They portray the candidate as an emerging specialist with prospects for further scientific development and contribution to the future development of beef cattle breeding in Bulgaria.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks regarding the candidate's scientific, teaching or other activity. I would only recommend that Dr. Karamfilov summarise all his scientific work and research and publish it in the form of a teaching aid or handbook for students and farmers.

8. Personal impressions and opinion of the reviewer

My personal impressions of Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov are of a responsible, purposeful and well-prepared teacher and specialist, distinguished by high professional competence and a serious attitude towards his academic duties. In his work he demonstrates consistency, correctness and a striving for continuous professional and scientific development.

I consider that Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov possesses the necessary scientific, teaching and professional qualities for the academic position of "Associate Professor". His work to date, the results achieved and his professional development provide grounds for a highly positive assessment.

CONCLUSION

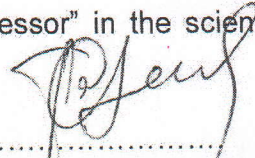
Based on the analysis carried out of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity, I consider that Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application.

The materials submitted for the competition and the overall professional activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov give me grounds to express a firmly positive assessment of his candidacy and to confirm that Dr. Karamfilov possesses the necessary training and qualities for the academic position of "Associate Professor". His professional profile and the results achieved are in full compliance with the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" and represent a contribution to the development of the Department of "Animal Science" at the Faculty of Agronomy, Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

All of this gives me grounds to assess his overall activity POSITIVELY.

I take the liberty of proposing to the esteemed Scientific Jury that it likewise vote positively, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy, Department of "Animal Science", Agricultural University – Plovdiv, elect Chief Assistant Dr. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cattle Breeding and Buffalo Breeding".

Date: 21.08.2026

REVIEWER: 
(Prof. Teodora Angelova, PhD)