



## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Ilieva, PhD, department "Animal Sciences" at Agricultural Institute – Shumen, field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.3 "Animal science", Scientific specialty "Cattle and buffalo breeding"

**Subject:** Competition for the academic position Associate Professor in the Field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.3 Animal Science, Scientific Specialty "Cattle and Buffalo Breeding," announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 41 of 5 May 2026.

**Basis for the Preparation of this Opinion:** Order No. RD 16-813/29.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, appointing the undersigned as a member of the Scientific Jury.

### 1. Candidate for the Competition

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, Department of Animal Sciences, Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Karamfilov was born on 31 May 1986. He graduated from the "Hristo Botev" Professional High School of Engineering and Technologies, Smolyan (2000–2004). Between 2004 and 2009, he obtained a Bachelor's degree from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, earning the professional qualification of "Zoo Engineer" in the Scientific specialty "Animal Science". During the period 2009–2010, he completed a Master's degree at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in the specialty "Animal Reproduction and Breeding". In 2015, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor (PhD)" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in Professional Field "04.02.01 – Breeding of Farm Animals, Biology and Biotechnology of Reproduction". He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Development of a Selection Index for the Montbéliarde Breed Raised in Bulgaria." Karamfilov's academic and teaching career began on 13 March 2017 and continues to the present. He has served as Chief Assistant Professor and lecturer in the Department of Animal Sciences at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. Karamfilov's professional career began as a Breeding Expert at the Association for Breeding Beef Cattle Breeds, where he worked from 1 March 2011 to 30 August 2014. From 1 September 2014 to 1 March 2017, he held the position of

Senior Expert in Cattle and Buffalo Breeding at the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding. Between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2025, he also worked as a Breeding Expert for the National Beef Cattle Breeders Association in Bulgaria.

## **2. Description of the scientific work of the candidate**

In the competition for the academic position Associate Professor, Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, presents a total of 27 scientific publications grouped in the following order:

- Publications related to the acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor (PhD)" – 3 (three) publications which are not subject to evaluation.  
24 (Twenty-four) publications are subject to evaluation
- Publications with an Impact Factor – 9 publications, representing 37.5% of the publications submitted by the candidate for the present competition, with a total Web of Science Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of 5.3.
- Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals – 15 (fifteen);
- Works outside the scientific specialty – one selection programme and four breeding programmes.
- The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD to the above-mentioned 24 scholarly works is demonstrated by the fact that he is the sole author of 7 scientific publications, first author in 15 publications, second author in 7 publications, and third or subsequent author in the remaining 2 publications.
- He has completed seven Erasmus+ mobility programmes for training purposes.

A total of 24 (twenty-four) scientific publications are subject to evaluation in the preparation of this opinion.

## **3. Teaching Activities**

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD has a total of 9 years, 2 months, and 18 days of teaching experience at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

The candidate's teaching workload for the period from the 2021/2022 to the 2025/2026 academic year, covering both Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, includes direct classroom

teaching (lectures and practical classes), as well as non-contact teaching activities, amounting to a total of 3,036.15 hours. His annual teaching workload ranged from 507.5 to 829.9 hours.

The candidate's teaching activities comprise:

- Lectures: 1,234 hours;
- Practical classes (laboratory/tutorial sessions): 1,261.5 hours.

He has completed one Erasmus+ mobility for teaching purposes.

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov is the author of six course syllabi.

#### **4. Research Activities**

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov has submitted the following scientific publications:

**Habilitation thesis** – The candidate has submitted 10 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases. These publications have been awarded a total of 374 points, thereby fulfilling the minimum national requirements for Group B.

**Group G** – The candidate has submitted 14 scientific articles, with a total score of 232.5 points. This score meets the minimum national requirements for Group G.

All publications submitted for the competition have been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed in the internationally recognized scientific databases Scopus and Web of Science.

The candidate's research output is primarily focused on beef cattle production, reproduction, and the efficient management of cattle farms. The studies conducted are of both scientific and applied scientific significance and are aimed at improving the efficiency of cattle production in Bulgaria.

The conformation characteristics of beef cattle of different origins were investigated (B4, B7, B8), including detailed body measurements of animals from the specialized beef breeds Aberdeen Angus, Limousin, and Hereford. The growth performance of male and female Aberdeen Angus calves during the suckling, growing, and fattening periods was also evaluated (B5–B6).

A substantial proportion of the candidate's research has been devoted to the application of modern reproductive technologies in beef cattle breeding (G12, G13, G18). The studies have yielded valuable results concerning the practical implementation of oestrus synchronization

protocols and fixed-time artificial insemination (FTAI). The influence of the sire on the main reproductive traits of Aberdeen Angus (G14) and Limousin (G24) cows has been investigated. The principal reproductive parameters of the dual-purpose Montbéliarde breed were determined (G15), and data on the milk production performance of Montbéliarde cows raised in Bulgaria were also obtained (G17). The ease of calving in Aberdeen Angus and Limousin cows was evaluated (G11). The maternal behaviour of Limousin cows under pasture-based management was investigated (G21). Studies were also conducted on the temperament of beef cattle during handling in a cattle crush (B2, B3) and on the temperament of dairy cattle during milking (G22). The candidate's research encompasses important aspects of contemporary beef and dual-purpose cattle production, including productivity, reproduction, behaviour, animal welfare, and the adaptability of cattle raised under Bulgarian production conditions.

#### **Citations and Indexing of the Scientific Publications**

For the purposes of this competition, the candidate has submitted six citations of three scientific publications published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases. These citations correspond to 90 points under the indicators for the evaluation of research activity.

#### **Participation in Research Projects**

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD has participated in four National Research Programmes, serving as principal investigator in two of them. He has also participated in two research projects, acting as principal investigator for one of these projects.

#### **5. Remarks and Recommendations**

I have no remarks regarding the candidate's research and applied scientific activities.

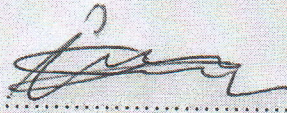
#### **6. Conclusion**

Based on the analysis and evaluation of the candidate's teaching, research, and applied scientific activities, I conclude that Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD satisfies the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations, and the Rules and Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, including the relevant annex, for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor. The materials submitted for the competition make a very positive impression due to

the comprehensive nature, consistency, and continuity of the candidate's research and applied scientific activities. His research record demonstrates sustained professional development, the ability to conduct independent scientific work, and the capacity to successfully carry out both fundamental and applied research. For these reasons, I give an overall **POSITIVE** evaluation of the academic, research, and applied scientific achievements of Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD. I therefore respectfully recommend that the distinguished Scientific Jury vote in favour of the candidate and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD to the academic position of Associate Professor in the Field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.3 Animal Science, Scientific Specialty "Cattle and Buffalo Breeding."

18.08.2026

Plovdiv

Opinion prepared by:  .....

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