



OPINION

By Tatyana Veskova Ivanova, Associate Professor in Agricultural Institute – Shumen, Scientific specialty “Cattle and buffalo breeding” appointed with Order RD 16-813/29.06.2026 by the Rector of Agricultural University – Plovdiv on the competition for the academic position Associate Professor, Scientific Specialty "Cattle and Buffalo Breeding", announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 41 of 5 May 2026 with the candidate Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov

1. Brief Presentation of the Candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, has nine years of teaching experience in the Department of Animal Sciences at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. During the period 2017–2018, he held the academic position of Assistant Professor, and since 2019 he has served as Chief Assistant Professor. He delivers lectures and practical classes in the following courses:

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

2. Description of the candidate's scientific work

The candidate Svetoslav Karamfilov presents a total of 27 scientific publications in connection to the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”, which are grouped in the following order:

Scientific publications in relation to the specialty – 27, from which:

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 3, which are not subject of evaluation;
- Publications in journals with Impact Factor – 9;
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals – 15;

The personal contribution of Svetoslav Karamfilov to the aforementioned 24 publications is evidenced by the fact that 7 are single-authored, he is the first author in 8, the second author in 7, and the third or subsequent author in the remaining 2 publications.

For the preparation of this opinion, 24 publications were evaluated.

3. Teaching Activities

Chief Assistant Professor Karamfilov has a total of 9 years and 2 months of teaching experience in the Department of Animal Sciences at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Teaching Load of the Candidate

He delivers lectures and practical classes in the following courses:

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

The teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of 21 students who successfully completed and defended their theses (14 at Bachelor's level and 7 at Master's level) during the period 2019–2025.

The candidate has also participated in academic exchanges at foreign universities in Italy, France, Portugal, Spain, and the Czech Republic for training purposes, as well as in South Africa for both training and teaching mobility under the Erasmus+ Programme.

Developed programmes

He has participated in the development of breeding programmes, serving as the author of one breeding programme for the Aberdeen Angus breed (2011) and as a co-author of four breeding programmes for cattle breeds—Aberdeen Angus (2025), Limousin, Galloway, Montbéliarde, and Simmental—raised in the Republic of Bulgaria.

He has developed five curricula for the Bachelor's degree programme, offered in both part-time and full-time study modes, as well as one curriculum for the Master's degree programme, also offered in both part-time and full-time study modes.

4. Scientific Research Activities

Areas of Publication

All articles submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Karamfilov as part of the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor have been published in journals indexed/abstracted in Web of Science, Web of Science Core Collection, and Scopus.

The main research presented in the habilitation work focuses on beef cattle production, including: assessment of cattle conformation and exterior traits; growth performance of calves; carcass characteristics and meat quality; milk productivity; temperament; calving ease and maternal instinct; reproductive performance; new approaches and optimization in the application of estrus synchronization and fixed-time artificial insemination protocols; and blood biochemical parameters in relation to the welfare of pasture-raised cattle.

Participation in scientific projects

During the period under review, he participated in four national programmes, serving as the project leader in two of them. He has also participated in two research projects, one of which he led.

5. Remarks and Recommendations

I have no remarks. I recommend that he participate in the preparation and authorship of teaching materials.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, scientific, and research-and-applied activities, I consider that Chief Assistant Professor S. Karamfilov meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for their implementation, as he meets the minimum national requirements.

All of the above provides me with sufficient grounds to give a POSITIVE EVALUATION of his overall academic and professional activities.

I therefore respectfully recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury also cast a positive vote and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Svetoslav Karamfilov to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty of Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

25.08.2026

Shumen

Opinion prepared by: 

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