



OPINION

By Prof. Yovka Miteva Popova, PhD, Agricultural Institute – Stara Zagora, scientific fields "Cattle and buffalo husbandry" and "Breeding of farm animals, biology and biotechnology of reproduction", professional field 6.3. Animal Science

Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific field "Cattle and buffalo husbandry", announced in the State newspaper, Issue No. 41 of 05 May 2026, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov, PhD, from the Department of Animal Sciences, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to Rector's Order No. RD16-813/29 June 2026 of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv

1. Brief Presentation of the Candidate

Chief Asst. Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov, PhD is the only candidate for participation in the competition. He was born on 31.05.1986 in the city of Smolyan. In 2009, at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, he obtained the educational and qualification degree of Bachelor, specialty Animal Husbandry, professional qualification Zooengineer, and in 2010 he graduated from the Master's program, specialty Animal Breeding and Reproduction. In 2014, he obtained the scientific and educational degree of PhD after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Development of selection indices for the Montbeliard breed bred in Bulgaria". In the period 2011-2014 is an expert breeder at the Association for Breeding of Local Cattle Breeds, 2014-2017 - Chief Expert at the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Livestock Breeding, and 2017-2025 - Expert Breeder at the National Association for Beef Cattle Breeding in Bulgaria. Since 2017, he has been an assistant, and since 2019 - Chief Assistant in "Cattle and Buffalo husbandry" at the Department of "Animal Sciences" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. He has conducted 7 mobilities under the ERASMUS + program at renowned European universities for the purpose of training and one mobility for training and teaching at the University of Limpopo, South Africa.

2. General Description of the Scientific Production

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, participates with a total scientific output of 32 works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications in the relevant scientific field – 27 publications, including:
 - Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 3 publications, which are not subject to consideration;
 - Publications with an impact factor – 9 publications;
 - Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 15 publications.
- Works outside the relevant scientific field – 5 breeding programmes.

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, to the 27 scientific works is evidenced by the fact that 8 are single-author publications, he

is the first author in 9 publications, the second author in 8 publications, and the third or subsequent author in the remaining 2 publications.

For the preparation of this evaluation, 24 scientific publications are subject to analysis.

The candidate has disseminated the results of his research through two poster presentations at an international scientific conference in Romania and four oral presentations at national scientific forums with international participation held in Bulgaria.

3. Teaching Activity

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD has provided a record of his teaching workload for the period from the 2021/2022 to the 2025/2026 academic year, covering both Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. During this period, he has had direct classroom teaching responsibilities, including lectures and practical classes, as well as extracurricular academic activities, amounting to a total of 3036.15 hours.

His total teaching experience exceeds 9 years. He delivers lectures and practical classes in the following courses: "Biological Foundations of Cattle and Buffalo Husbandry", "Technology of Cattle and Buffalo Husbandry", "Cattle Husbandry", "Geographical and Breed-Specific Protected Products", "Management of Genetic Resources in Cattle and Buffalo Husbandry", and "Technological Design in Animal Husbandry".

The candidate has participated in the development of 6 curricula, of which 3 are compulsory and 1 is elective within the curriculum of the " Zooengineer" degree programme; 1 is elective within the curriculum of the "Animal Selection and Reproduction" degree programme; and 1 is optional within the curriculum of the "Agricultural Engineering" degree programme.

All of the above demonstrates that Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, possesses the experience and professional capacity required to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor."

4. Research Activity

In the competition, Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, has submitted a report on his fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", with a total of 739 points, distributed as follows:

- Group A – Doctoral dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor (PhD)" – 50 points, against a required minimum of 50 points.
- Group B – 10 scientific articles published in journals indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized databases of scientific information – 374 points, against a required minimum of 100 points.
- Group G – 14 scientific publications in journals indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized databases of scientific information – 225 points, against a required minimum of 200 points.
- Group D – Citations or reviews in scientific publications indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized databases of scientific information, or in monographs and edited volumes – 90 points, against a required minimum of 50 points.

All scientific publications are relevant to the subject matter of the announced competition. The candidate's main areas of research can be divided into two principal research directions:

- Sustainable development of beef cattle production in Bulgaria, involving comprehensive studies of conformation, growth performance, carcass traits, and meat quality of cattle from specialized beef breeds raised in the country.

- Opportunities for effective management of reproduction and production in cattle farms, including the analysis of new approaches and optimization of protocols for estrus synchronization and fixed-time artificial insemination in beef cattle; reproductive performance of beef and dual-purpose cattle; calving ease and maternal instinct in beef cattle; temperament of beef and dairy cattle during handling; blood biochemical parameters in relation to animal welfare under pasture-based management of beef cattle; and milk production in cows.

For participation in the competition, the candidate has provided evidence of 6 citations of 3 scientific publications, which is an indicator of his recognition within the scientific community both nationally and internationally.

The candidate has also provided documentation of participation in 6 scientific projects, two of which were funded under the National Scientific Programme "Intelligent Livestock Farming" and the National Scientific Programme "Reproductive Biotechnologies in Animal Husbandry in Bulgaria – REPROBIOTECH", funded by the Ministry of Education and Science.

Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, has served as project leader of 3 scientific projects, two of which were implemented under the National Scientific Programme "Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers", also funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, and one funded by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

5. Remarks and Recommendations

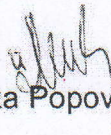
I have no remarks or recommendations concerning the candidate.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, research, and applied research activities, I consider that Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Karamfilov, PhD, meets the requirements of the LDASRB, the RILDASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for their implementation.

All of the above provides me with sufficient grounds to give an **OVERALL POSITIVE EVALUATION** of his professional and academic activities. I therefore respectfully recommend that the distinguished Scientific Jury also vote positively and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect **Chief Assistant Professor Svetoslav Biserov Karamfilov, PhD**, to the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific field "Cattle and Buffalo Husbandry."

Date: 25.08.2026
Plovdiv

PREPARED BY: 
(Prof. Yovka Popova, PhD)