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Получено на 23.03.2021	

STATEMENT

Regarding a competition for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding", announced in Governmental newspaper no. 98 from 17.11.2020, with candidate assistant professor Ph.D. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov by Prof. Ph.D. Stayka Laleva, field of higher education "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field "Animal Husbandry", scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding", appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № RD-16-49 / 22.01.2021 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

Assistant professor Ph.D. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov is the only candidate for the announced in Governmental newspaper no. 98 from 17.11.2020 competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding". In 2000 the candidate graduate Veterinary Medicine Faculty at the Thracian University - Stara Zagora, with a professional qualification Master of Veterinary Medicine. During the period 2002 -2005 he was a full-time Ph.D. student in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding" in the Department of "Animal Sciences" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. From March 2005 he was appointed a full-time "assistant" in Animal Husbandry in the same department and since October 2009 and currently an "assistant professor". In 2009 successfully defended his dissertation on the topic: "Study of maternal ability and some characteristics of meat productivity in White and Patch face Maritsa sheep", for which he was awarded the scientific and educational degree "Ph.D." in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding".

The career development of the candidate is related to his active teaching, research, project and research activities. Based on the materials presented at the competition, as well as on the basis of personal impressions of the candidate's activity, I allow myself to give a high assessment of his career and thematic development.

In the competition for "**Associate Professor**" **Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov** participated with a total of 33 scientific papers:

- ❖ Scientific papers in the nomenclature specialty - 32 pcs., including:
 - Dissertation for ESD "Ph.D." - 1 pcs.
 - Scientific papers on the topic of the dissertation – 4 pcs.
 - Published book on the topic of the dissertation – 1 pcs.
 - Publications in reviewed and referred scientific journals - 17 pcs, one of which is outside the topic of the competition / Angelushev, I., At. Vuchkov, 2015. "Basic exterior dimensions in male specimens of the breed Bulgarian Tricolor Beagle"/
 - Publications in reviewed / non -reviewed / journals - 10 pcs.

A total of **28 scientific papers** remain for analysis, of which 6 are independent /21,4%/. In 10 scientific papers / 35.7% / assistant professor

Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov is a leading author, in 10 papers / 35.7% / he is second, and in the remaining 2 / 7.2% / he is a third or next author.

Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov is a co-author of the Handbook for Exercises in Sheep and Goat breeding.

The candidate has participated with two scientific paper reports in European symposia and with 12 scientific paper reports and 1 poster at scientific conferences with international participation in Bulgaria.

The main directions of the research activity of the assistant professor Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov are:

- Study of the growth intensity, fertility and milk yield in White and Patch face Maritsa lambs.
- Study of the meat-producing qualities, the chemical and fatty acid composition of the meat of White and Patch face Maritsa lambs.
- Study of the autochthonous goat breeds reared in our country - exterior, coagulation ability of milk, breeding systems.

Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov participates in 6 research projects / 2 international and 2 national educational projects /.

Indicators of the importance and relevance of the scientific production of the candidate are the citations and publication in prestigious scientific journals both at home and abroad.

Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov covers the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" and professional field 6.3. "Animal Husbandry", according to Art. 2b of the LDASRB, as well as the requirements according to SRFDAS at the Agricultural University

1. Group of indicators "A" - Successfully defended dissertation for awarding ESD "Ph.D." in 2009 - 50 points.

2. Group of indicators "B" - 10 scientific papers, with which the candidate forms 216 points, with a requirement of 100 points.

3. Group of indicators „G“

- published a book based on a defended dissertation for the award of ESD "Ph.D." - **40 points**

- 6 pcs. articles and reports published in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - **150 points.**

- 10 pcs. articles and reports published in non-referred journals with scientific review - **36.32 points.**

The total number of points on this indicator "G" is **226.32**, with a requirement of **200 points.**

4. Group of indicators "D" – 4 pcs. are presented in scientific journals referred and indexed world-famous databases - 50 points.

5. Group of indicators "E" - 80 points, formed by 2 participations in international projects and one handbook for exercises in sheep and goat breeding.

The total amount of the scientometric indicators for "Associate Professor", which the candidate forms is **632.32 points**, with minimum requirements of **400 points**.

Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Vuchkov conducts lectures and practical classes in the following disciplines: Sheep and Goat breeding, Animal husbandry, Animal husbandry in Mountain areas, Use of Shepherd Dogs and Cynology, covering the annual standards for curriculum and extracurricular activity accepted from the Agricultural University. He is the scientific supervisor of 11 successfully defended graduates. Positive feedback from students and teacher is an indicator of the teaching experience and qualification degree of the candidate for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

After analyzing the presented scientific production and references, I allow myself to point out the following contributions:

1. Original contributions

- Study of the Kalofer long-haired goat and the Bulgarian screwhorned long-haired goat, related to the exterior, the variations in the color of the fell, the meat-production qualities of the lambs and the individual coagulation ability of the milk. (**I.3., I.4., I.6., I.9., III.7., IV.3., IV.4., IV.5., IV.7. III.4.).**

2. Scientific contributions

- Studies have been carried out on the intensity of growth, fertility and milk yield, as well as the fattening and meat-producing qualities of lambs of the White and Patch face Maritsa sheep breeds. (**I.1., I.2., I.7., II.1., III.1., IV.1. IV.6.).**

- The weight development of Karakachan lambs from birth to weaning at the age of 90 days has been established. (**IV.10.**), as well as growth abilities after weaning of White Maritsa lambs (**I.7.**).

3. Applicable contributions

- Developed and implemented in practice breeding strategies for conservation of Kalofer long-haired goat and Bulgarian screwhorned long-haired goat (**II.3.**).

- A description of the production technology is made, as well as a biochemical specification of the original "Tulum cheese", produced by traditional technology from Karakachan sheep milk (**I.10. и IV.9.**).

I highly evaluate the mentioned contributions to science and practice. I know the candidate and my personal impressions are excellent. He is an established name, not only in scientific circles, but also among farmers breeding Maritsa sheep and indigenous goat breeds. He has all the necessary professional and personal qualities to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor".

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the scientific, scientific-applied and teaching activity, I give a **high positive assessment** of the overall activity of Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov.

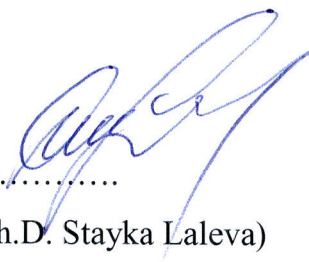
I propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect

Assistant Professor Ph.D. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov for the academic position
"Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty **"Sheep and Goat breeding"**

Date: 20.03. 2021г.

Plovdiv

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(Prof. Ph.D. Stayka Laleva)