



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

**Department of Wildlife, Fish
and Environmental Studies**

Slaughter weight in relation to calving date – can area quality compensate for being born late?

In many herbivores, timing of calving coincides closely to the start of the vegetation period to ensure optimal foraging conditions during lactation when energy requirements are high. Yet, perception does not always happen during the first estrus, resulting in a later timing of calving. Being born later in season generally results in worse preconditions for the calf as it shortens the period of forage supply before winter, which can result in lower calf body weight.

To get a better understanding of the relationship between timing of calving, area quality, and calf body weight, we are looking for a student who is interested in analyzing moose calving dates in relation to calf body weight after birth and their slaughter weight in different areas. The student will use the existing dataset on calving dates, body and slaughter weights of marked moose calves by GPS-marked moose in the counties of Kronoberg, Sörmland, and Norrbotten

Requirements: A motivated student that has good knowledge in R and statistics. The project will be a desk-based study. The project is expected to generate a peer viewed publication in an international journal.

Extent: 30 credits

Supervisor: Wiebke Neumann, Fredrik Widemo

To apply: please send a letter of interest to Wiebke Neumann (Wiebke.Neumann@slu.se) explaining your suitability for the project.