

Pitt County Extension Intern

Location: Pitt County

Program Area: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Immediate/Site Supervisor: Mitch Smith – agriculture extension agent

Other Mentors and Supervisors: Andy Burlingham - agriculture agent; Hannah Smith - horticulture agent; Lauren Dail - 4-H agent; Taneisha Armstrong - FCS agent

Position Description/Responsibilities:

Primary responsibility will be to work with the county agricultural agent to learn the day-to-day responsibilities of serving agricultural clientele. Duties will include on-farm visits with farmers to assist with problem solving and offering solutions for improved crop production; implementation of on-farm tests used to promote best management practices; communication with farmers through the delivery of research based information; work with the local agricultural agent to anticipate upcoming issues and needs impacting county agricultural production.

Intern will work with other agents on staff to learn the total scope of a county Extension program. Responsibilities will include participation in team meetings and contributing to the daily implementation of the county Extension program.

Intern will develop a proposal to enhance social media communication with agricultural audiences. Intern will determine preferences on behalf of county farmers for receiving information from the county Extension program. Intern will also assist by gathering information from external sources on customer preferences.

Intern will gain valuable experience essential to becoming a professional agricultural agent. Individual will accompany the agricultural agent on farm visits in order to interact directly with farmers and various in-service training opportunities offered by N.C. State commodity specialists.

Preferred qualifications/previous coursework:

- Agronomy major (crop and soil science) and/or other agricultural related field.
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Able to work effectively in a team setting and can build collaborative relationships with others.
- Strong organizational and planning skills
- Ability to apply concepts from their coursework and classroom experiences into program planning and implementation.
- Effective reasoning skills which result in being able to contribute to problem solving and solutions to agronomic problems.

Benefits/skills student will gain through this internship:

- Interns will gain a thorough working knowledge of a total county Extension program.
- Participants will see how agents function in a team setting and will contribute to the county's educational goals and objectives.
- Skills will be gained on collecting information which will shape the appropriate delivery method for research based information.
- Developing on-farm tests and problem-solving skills which will contribute to the possible employment of the intern as a Cooperative Extension agent.
- Interns will work directly with farmers in identifying needs and issues impacting row crop agriculture.
- Communication skills will be gained which will enable intern to assist farmers in improving their operations.

Additional Information

Pitt County ranks 9th in the state for crop receipts among 100 counties. The Pitt County Extension Center serves farmers through the delivery of research-based information which enables them to increase yields and remain competitive in crop production. Working as an agricultural intern in Pitt County, the participant will gain a thorough knowledge of the day-to-day operation of Cooperative Extension and how each office fulfills its mission of "taking the University to the people."