

## Lee County Extension Intern

**Location:** Lee County

**Program Area:** Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Immediate/Site Supervisor:** Amanda Wilkins, Horticulture Agent

**Other Mentors and Supervisors:** Bill Stone, County Extension Director Meredith Favre, Local Foods Agent

### Position Description/Responsibilities:

This intern will work primarily with Agricultural Agents in our office to coordinate and implement hands-on and virtual education programs, events and activities. This would include collaboration with the Horticulture, Local Foods and Field Crops and Livestock Agents.

Although their primary focus will be agricultural programming, the intern will also be exposed to each Extension program area, with an effort made to highlight the value of multidisciplinary programming across disciplines.

The intern will also participate in team meetings where local issues are identified and prioritized, as well as program planning sessions where desired impacts and outcomes are discussed. The intern will assist in preparing planned events and activities by gathering information, assembling materials and soliciting support from external sources. They will be given opportunities to take the lead on developing and implementing programs and activities while also teaching, training, and facilitating small and large groups either in person or virtually.

Projects the intern will be working on during their time in Lee County: Work with the Local Foods Agent on innovative ways to support and expand existing Farmers Market Assist the Local Foods Agent with developing a local food asset map and compiling resources and trainings for new and beginning farmers on the Extension website Assist in the development of interactive virtual programming and educational video production Work on developing alternative landscape resource materials and educational tools with the Horticulture Agent Help to develop multi-tiered pollinator education program in collaboration with Horticulture Agent Assistance in developing business management/marketing tools for small growers to access local and direct to consumer/online customer base Assist with article development for both consumer and commercial grower applications Work with Field Crops and Livestock Agent on Scouting and Research Trials Assist with Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Programming Conduct an audit of invasive plants used in landscape design by county and city government and work with the Horticulture Agent to draft alternative landscaping with native plants educational resources Work with local farmers under the supervision of Field Crops Agent on field trial management and data collection

### Preferred qualifications/previous coursework:

- Preference to students enrolled in agronomy, horticultural science, plant science, agribusiness/economics, bio & ag engineering, agricultural education, and/or additional agricultural related fields.
- Strong oral and written communication skills and an individual able to work effectively in a team setting and build collaborative relationships with others.
- Organization and planning skills are essential, along with the ability to apply concepts from their coursework and classroom experiences into program planning and implementation.
- Deductive reasoning skills and an ability to analyze and synthesize information to find solutions is crucial.
- A personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues will also be essential to the intern's success.

### Benefits/skills student will gain through this internship:

- Learn more about a possible career in Extension and/or expand their skill set for future employment in an agriculture-related field.
- Unique hands-on learning opportunity under the skilled mentorship and guidance of experienced Extension professionals.

### Additional Information

Since the program's inception, Lee County has hosted a number of successful NCSU Extension internship experiences. Both our team and the interns have finished the summer with new skills, valuable experiences and increased confidence in their personal and professional abilities.

Three out of our last four NCSU interns have landed positions in either Extension or agricultural research, with two of our most recent interns currently serving as County Extension Agents in North Carolina. Our approach is a totally immersive Extension experience, where the intern is valued and respected as a true team member from the very start. They will be challenged to assist, co-lead and lead projects and will be provided support and guidance along the way from each staff member. At the conclusion of their experience, we feel confident that the intern will leave us with a thorough understanding of Extension, a well-rounded knowledge of each program area and how they function together, and a good idea on whether or not they would like to pursue Extension work as a career choice.

