

Lee County Extension Intern

Location: Lee County

Program Area: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Immediate/Site Supervisor: Meredith Favre

Other Mentors and Supervisors: Bill Stone, Amanda Wilkins and Jared Butler

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. 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.

Activities will also include participation in team meetings where local issues are identified and prioritized, and program planning and desired impacts 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.

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 ability. Multiple summer interns coming through the program in Lee County have gone on to become successful county agents across the state.

Our approach is a totally immersive Extension experience, where the intern is valued and respected as a 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.

Preferred qualifications/previous coursework:

Since the primary focus of the internship will be agriculture, preference will be given to students enrolled in agronomy, animal science, horticultural 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 project coordination, facilitation and implementation.
- Deductive reasoning skills and an ability to analyze and synthesize information for problem solving is preferred along with a personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues.

Benefits/skills student will gain through this internship:

The goal is for the intern to learn more about a possible career in Extension and to expand the candidate's skillset for future employment. Interns will also benefit from a unique hands-on learning opportunity under the mentorship of experienced professional agents. Specific projects we have identified that the intern will be working on during their time in Lee County this summer.

Assisting with:

- Teaching a pesticide course
- Scouting crop fields using a sweep net or possibly identify and count insects in a light trap
- Pond weed identification and consultation
- Extension Master Gardener Training
- Summer Fun Programming
- Writing Garden Guide Articles
- Supporting social media posts
- "Pollinator Conservation through Gardening" Program
- Farmers' market operations support, activities, and marketing
- Extension Master Food Volunteer training
- Community engagement activities around the Sanford Agricultural Marketplace project
- Farm to ECE local food purchasing, programming, and support