

Testimonials from Pork Industry Interns

Murphy-Brown LLC – Internship 2009

Every summer Murphy Brown LLC hosts students from high schools and colleges for a 10-12 week internship. In 2009 interns were placed on sow farms to study swine production operations. One intern worked with the Land and Nutrient Management group and one intern was placed in the Garage Maintenance department. Each intern received a development plan for the summer which included a combination of technical skills training and visits to other departments within the Murphy-Brown business. This year for the first time we had a combination of high school and college interns all from the North Carolina area. Below is what they said about the Internship-----

“Murphy - Brown a positive opportunity...a small step to a great future.”
Andrew Stewart – NCSU

“Great people, great experiences.”
William Giddings – James Kenan High School

“A great way to spend my summer...a great way to learn something new...something you’ll never forget.”
Jonathan Dempsey-James Sprunt Community College

“A great way to meet new people... looks great on a resume...grow close to the people you work with.”
Tavian Johnson – James Kenan High School

“A new experience that might come once in a life time.”
Elyse Johnson –Wallace-Rose Hill

“An internship with Murphy- Brown is a great opportunity to get experience and exposure to production agriculture...learn about swine production and get paid!”
Patrick Smith -NCSU

“Working with MB, has allowed me to see why the Swine Industry in NC is important. This internship has allowed me to further my skills and replenish my passion for agriculture.”
Chris Stroud – Mount Olive College.



"This Internship with Murphy-Brown has helped me learn different types of skills. Not just how to raise swine, but skills like you have to prepare before you start doing something." Jenna Gillette – Richlands High School.

"It's one thing to sit in a classroom and talk about agronomic practices but to go out in the field and apply what you have learned is another."
Scott Tilley- NCSU

"Working on cars is fun but when you move on to tractors it's a whole different world."
Scott Mathews – Wallace Rose-Hill High School

"The experience from hands on is way more enjoyable than book knowledge"
Carolyn Condron- James Sprunt Community College.

"The experience I had working for Murphy-Brown LLC has been amazing"
Karen Zuniga – James Kenan High School.

Murphy-Brown internships are generally paid positions and include housing if required. Interested students should direct inquiries to jackiebass@murphybrownllc.com

Indiana Pork Internship – Summer 2009

My experiences as an intern with Indiana Pork have been truly valuable to building my career-focus and knowledge of the hog industry in Indiana, and nation-wide. I chose to apply for this internship because I grew up on a commercial hog operation and I wanted to gain knowledge while also gaining experience in an association-type business. The rate of pay was competitive with other internships, offering a salary of \$3,500 and the opportunity for a \$500 bonus upon completion of the Indiana State Fair.

Coming into this internship my interests were producer-outreach and communications. I have definitely expanded my knowledge in both of these aspects so far. I visit with multiple producers and enjoy conversing with them about their individual concerns and ideas. I help to reassure each producer that at Indiana Pork we are working our hardest to protect the livelihood of Indiana hog farmers, promote pork products and public perception, and communicate the value of the pork industry to state law-makers and investors. I was excited to travel to the World Pork Expo in Iowa, tour the National Pork Board, and attend internship training with other state interns and pork ambassadors.

Some of my daily activities include making phone calls to producers, setting up and going on producer visits, updating records, and creating literature for distribution on appointments. I work closely with Josh Trenary to visit with Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition partners and assist with membership development. I also attend many meetings with other industry partners, such as the Indiana Soybean Alliance, Corn Council, Indiana Beef Cattle Association, Farm Bureau, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and similar associations. The opportunity to network with a variety of people in the agriculture-realm in my home state has been astounding and is highly valuable for future career opportunities.

The culmination of the Indiana Pork internship is the Indiana State Fair, in which the Indiana Pork Concession tents are our main responsibility and focus. We work the duration of the state fair and manage three pork tents in which we sell various pork products such as pork-chop sandwiches, pork burgers, and meal plates. I look forward to the excitement and fun that the fair has to offer. I hope to also gain managerial experience through planning and supervising these concession stands.

I recommend the Indiana Pork internship to any individual who has an interest in the pork industry and wants to learn more about working in a livestock association. I have gained countless skills thus far, including issue management, experience in promotional activities and people-management, and overall a deep knowledge of the pork industry and its effects on the economy of Indiana, the U. S. and the world.

-Sarah Jordan

National Pork Board – Domestic Marketing Intern 2009

Rate of Pay: \$10/hr

As the marketing intern for the National Pork Board I assist in the all the areas of our department which include advertising, public relations, retail, and foodservice. Our main focus is promoting pork to the consumer while at the same time educating them. Throughout my internship I have received projects which support each area of our department such as working on website content, implementing social media, gaining valuable information from our retailers, providing marketing resources for our state organizations, working with The Other White Meat Tour, and many other tasks. I have also had the opportunity to talk with people one on one and promote pork at events such as The Other White Meat Tour and the School Nutrition Association.

As a marketing student with little prior knowledge about agriculture I have learned a tremendous amount about pork production and consumption through conversations with producers and the tours we took to Iowa Select Farms and Hormel. It's also been very beneficial for me to learn how agency relationships work as we work with multiple agencies on our many projects. While I was at the National Pork Board we have been working on our planning stages for the next year and it has been a great learning experience to see how the planning process works.

To be able to work on a national branding campaign such as The Other White Meat is such a privilege and I feel honored to be a part of it. Working at the National Pork Board has been an amazing experience and I'm proud to be working for America's Pork Producers while at the same time gaining knowledge about various marketing functions.

-Kathryn Heiar, University of Northern Iowa

Professional Swine Management Internship – Summer 2009

This summer, I participated in the 2009 Professional Swine Management Production Internship in Carthage, Illinois. I was based on a six thousand head sow farm. My position at the farm was as a farm manager intern. I was taught many things that a farm manager does on a day to day basis. Also, I got to shadow the farm veterinarians and production managers when they visited the farm. Over this summer, I have learned many things about sow and piglet production that will help me in the long run as I strive to become a large animal veterinarian.

There were many things that I liked about this internship. My farm manager was very good at teaching me hands-on skills. He always let me follow him around instead of just pawning me off on other workers. Also, in many other systems, the production intern is just a summer worker and ends up pressure washing all summer. That was not the case at my farm. I got to perform many tasks that a farm manager performs every day. I spent nearly half of my summer in the breeding and gilt developer units. I spent my remaining time in the farrowing unit. I learned many skills in both divisions that are influential in the day to day running of a sow farm. These tasks ranged from pregnancy checking and body condition scoring of gestation sows to induction and monitoring of farrowing sows

I also got to participate in a research project focused on weaned piglets. This research project was very interesting. I got to collect a lot of important data that was examined by the research staff. This project taught me how to maintain neat and current files and how to correctly process research data.

Overall, I liked my internship with Professional Swine Management very much. I learned a lot about the other side of the swine industry that I am not used to. I am very confident that this summer internship will look very good on my veterinary school application. I am extremely glad that I participated in this internship.

Professional Swine Management Internship – Summer 2009

My internship with Carthage Veterinary Services was over a period of 3 months in Summer 2009. Day to day activities included learning about large-scale production on a sow farm and working with the employees on the farm to get hands on experience, and doing walk-throughs with a veterinarian or production manager. I also was responsible for part of a research trial over the summer in which I gathered data taking samples and weights and recorded it to be sent in. I was also involved a PRRS project and got to assist with that, getting in some traveling time. As I was traveling, I also helped in the office for biosecurity reasons and got a lot of experience with different computer programs and what work a veterinarian in this practice would do during time not spent on the farms. Other educational experiences included learning about the management outside the everyday farm such as production managers, meeting with other companies CVS works with, and touring facilities including other farms, feed mills, and companies that work with CVS. Overall it was a very educational, interesting, and fast-paced summer, with plenty of opportunities to develop personally and professionally. I had a lot of fun and a lot of hands-on experience I could have never gotten in a classroom setting.