LSU AgCenter Northeast Region Internship

Focus: Agronomic and Pest Management Research and Extension Programs

Three LSU AgCenter research stations (Scott Research, Extension and Education Center, Northeast Research Station and Sweet Potato Research Station) are located in the Northeast Region, along with 12 parish extension offices. The intern will have an opportunity to work with faculty at each of the three stations and with agents working across multiple parishes. The internship experience will focus on agronomic and pest management research and extension programs for all field crops produced in the region.

Qualifications

1. Minimum qualifications: Student applicant should be in a field of study and major applicable to production agriculture (i.e. Plant and Soil Systems, Agricultural Business, Agriculture and Extension Education). Rising juniors and seniors in the majors listed above from LSU and partner institutions with at least a 3.0 GPA are most competitive. Second-year students and those with a minimum 2.5 GPA are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

2. Preferred qualifications: Prior personal or work-related experience involving agricultural production systems. Experience working across disciplines or various initiatives in a team environment. Strong written and verbal communication skills are preferred. A working knowledge of Microsoft programs, including Excel and PowerPoint is preferred.

3. Physical qualifications: Able to work in an outdoor field setting, in hot, humid and dusty conditions.

Primary Contacts / Program Advisors: Dr. Tara Smith, Regional Director and Dr. Donnie Miller, Research Coordinator LSU AgCenter Scott Research, Extension and Education Center and Northeast Research Station

Maximum Interns Needed: 3

Location: LSU AgCenter Northeast Region

Weeks 1-3
Daily Contact: Dr. Trey Price
Location: LSU AgCenter Scott Research, Extension and Education Center, Winnsboro, LA
Primary Tasks:

- Station and Program Orientation
- Identify a “Special Topic Research Issue” to focus on during the three week program
- Assist Dr. Price with field research trials
- Participate in station trials with the entomology program contact (Dr. Brown) and the agronomy program contact on station (Mr. John Stapp).
• Accompany Dr. Price on extension calls to commercial fields
• Summarize and present results (PowerPoint) from the special topic research project to station faculty and staff.

Weeks 4-6
Daily Contact: Dr. Arthur Villordon
Location: LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, Louisiana
Primary Tasks:
• Identify a “Special Topic Research Issue” to focus on during the three week program
• Participate in research trials with Dr. Villordon (focus will be on greenhouse and field studies) focused on improving production practices for sweetpotato.
• Participate in on-farm demonstrations working with Drs. Villordon, Smith and Mr. Myrl Sistrunk
• Summarize and present research results from the special topic project to faculty and staff at the Sweet Potato Research Station

Weeks 7-9
Daily Contact: Dr. Josh Copes and Mr. Dennis Burns
Location: LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station/Tensas Parish Extension Office, St. Joseph, Louisiana
Primary Tasks:
• Collaborate with Dr. Copes (agronomy and weed science) on established research trials on station.
• Accompany and assist Mr. Burns with extension programs focused on agronomy and pest management issues for all field crops in Tensas, Concordia and Catahoula Parishes.
• Summarize experiences and contacts during the three week program

Success Metrics:
• Interns will meet weekly with Dr. Smith or Dr. Miller to discuss the internship experience and all aspects of the program including a discussion of any logistic or communication concerns they may have.
• Each faculty contact will complete a survey regarding the internship program, the effects on their program and provide a description of program impacts
• Completion of an LSU College of Agriculture course in the interns’ respective department (earning a C–grade or higher), if applicable.
• Completion of the PowerPoint presentation for research activities during weeks 1-3 and 4-6 along with a detailed summary of the 10 week internship experience to be shared with all participating faculty and internship program administrators.