

Wilson County Extension Intern

Location: Wilson County

Program Area: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Immediate/Site Supervisor: Tommy Batts, Extension Agent

Other Mentors and Supervisors: Norman Harrell, County Extension Director; Dr. Cranos Williams, Goodnight Distinguished Professor of Agriculture Analytics, NC State University

Position Description/ Responsibilities:

This intern position will be a new Extension Intern concept of partnering with Cooperative Extension and the Plant Science Initiative (PSI) to work with "Sweet-APPS". The position will be based at the Cooperative Extension office in Wilson County and work some at PSI at NC State University in Raleigh.

The PSI is currently working on a big data project focused on the integration of imaging /sensing systems with data analytics to improve value and reduce waste across the sweet potato value chain (Sweet-APPS). NCSU and Scott Farms in Wilson County are working together to generate data for Sweet-APPS.

This intern position will work to expand relationships with additional sweet potato growers and packers. The intern will work directly with the Commercial Horticulture Agent in Wilson County to learn more about Cooperative Extension, on farm research, educational programming and networking with farmers and private industry.

Preferred qualifications/previous coursework:

- Coursework in agricultural field such as Crop and Soil Science, Biological Engineering, Horticulture Science, Biological and Agricultural Engineering Technology, Ag Science, etc.
- Relevant experience in a field of agriculture preferred.

Benefits/skills student will gain through this internship:

- Learn the process of Extension programming and the knowledge and skills necessary to be an Extension Agent.
- Learn about research and programs conducted at PSI.
- Develop relationship with sweet potato growers and packers in the Wilson County area.
- Learn about conducting on farm research and data collection.
- Learn and understand about the Sweet-APPS program.
- Develop relationships with other Extension Agents, Specialists, Researchers and Professors on Campus.

Additional Information:

This is a unique experience to learn about the Plant Science Initiative, Cooperative Extension and sweet potato farming operations. Wilson County is located 1 hour East of Raleigh.