8-week paid internship
Working with one of the following, (housing included):
- Beck’s Seeds
- BioTownAg
- Whiteshire Hamroc

4-week Laos experience
Working at Southern Animal Husbandry (SAH), an integrated farming operation (pigs, aquaculture, grain); plus visiting cultural sites.

Independent study possible
Working with Dr. Alan Mathew, Department Head ANSC

By Feb. 15th, send your:
Cover letter and resume to:
Ken Perkins, First Farmer’s Bank
Ken.Perkins@ffbt.com

Questions? Email:
Colleen Kelly, In’tl Programs in Ag
colleenkelly@purdue.edu

LAOS
MAY 16 – AUG 13
6-8 passionate & hardworking College of Agriculture students
- Gain international experience
- Enhance your working knowledge of swine production, aquaculture, corn/soy production
- Impact a growing industry in another country
- Build your resume

Int’l Experience / Credit
Paid Ag Internship
Who’s Who

Ken Perkins of First Farmer’s Bank (Converse, IN) has been working in Laos for the past 12 years to help combat malnutrition in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic through an integrated farm operation, SAH (Southern Animal Husbandry) in Salavan, Laos. Neil and Elizabeth Peterson each have lived and worked in Laos for the past 15 years and serve as the farm’s daily operation managers. Mr. Perkins is facilitating the internships and travel to Laos. The Petersons will direct the daily activities of interns.

Though SAH operates as a business to maintain operations within the country, the farm exists as a means to increase rural livelihoods and food security within the region. Several industry partners support the mission of the SAH, through their time, effort, and material resources. Many have even traveled to the SAH in Laos.

SAH’s largest constraint to scaling up its success and reach is the lack of trained manpower. Bringing in a small cohort of motivated, hardworking students from Purdue’s College of Agriculture would benefit all stakeholders - Laotians, SAH, interns, and even future employers. Industry partners believe this experience could help cultivate graduates with the ethics, skills, and competencies each company seeks in future employees. So far three industry partners have agreed to offer flexible 8-week, paid internships (housing included) within Indiana to complement the SAH Laotian experience.

See additional materials for internship details.

GROUP 1 GROUP 2

In order to provide sufficient oversight and supervision on the farm in Laos, SAH can host no more than four volunteer interns at a time. Interns will be divided into two groups, with the first group leaving at the end of Week 4 of the paid internships. Both groups will combine during cultural excursions in Vientiane. The intern coordinator, Ken Perkins, will determine how selected interns will be divided between the two groups.

SAH Farm Operations

The Lao section of the summer experience involves assisting in the daily operation of running of a small farm that contains 75 sows, fish ponds, and small feed mill. SAH focuses its operations in three areas:

1.) Swine: Producing 25-30 lb pigs to be sold or raised by several Lao growers
2.) Aquaculture: Raises fingerling size fry (tilapia and hybrid silver barb/carp) to sell to local rice farmers to stock in their rice paddies. SAH practices green water aquaculture, using the effluent from the farrowing sheds as a nitrogen source to support algae growth in water impoundments.
3.) Seed & Feed: The farm provides feed for their village growers, feed for sale, and offers a seed loan program for farms to obtain corn and/or soybean seeds.

Daily activities for SAH interns may include the following:

- Pig pen cleaning, vaccinations, semen collection, artificial insemination, weaning and moving pigs, feeding, sperm motility checks with a microscope, sow record keeping, delivery of 30-pounders to village growers, preparing feed mixes, fish feeding, fish pen management, water testing, inducing fish spawning, processing and delivering fry to Laotian farmers, draining ponds and collecting fish.

Included Costs

- Lodging
- Food, with a few exceptions
- In-country travel
- Visa & visa extension
- Admission to cultural sites
- In-country coordination fees

Costs to be covered by participant

- Flights, aprox. $1600
- Travel Insurance, aprox. $32
- Personal expenses*
- Occasional meals/snacks
- Passport*, $165
- Immunizations*
- Study abroad fee,*3 if taking an independent study

1. Program budgets are still being finalized. Included/non-included costs may vary somewhat.
2. Passport must still have six months left of validity to enter Laos.
3. Students completing an independent study may qualify for a $1,000 Purdue Moves Scholarship.