Week 1 - August 28, 2017 Features:

Ashley Thurman, Sophomore, majoring in Agronomy, from Hartford City, IN -

“I received a summer internship at the Purdue Agriculture Fall Career Fair for the summer after my freshmen year. My internship was with Remington Seeds in Lebanon, Indiana. To start my internship off we had a week long training session that took place at the Remington plant. During that week we reviewed and learned about safety procedures, the company, and more about what we would be doing. With an internship with Remington Seeds our job description was simply a field scout.

At the beginning of the summer we mapped fields. Mapping fields consisted of marking what was planted in the surrounding fields and counting panels across the fields. After we finished mapping all the fields we moved on to population counts. We did counts according to how many acres the fields were. Along with counts, we also scouted fields, we looked for anything that was unusual, or anything that was not supposed to be there. Weeds were the main thing we marked on the reports we had to fill out. The last reports we had to make for each field were detasseling reports. For those reports we counted male tassels and female silks and checked to make sure that the female rows were all detasseled.

Overall I really enjoyed my summer. I made a new friend, the other intern. I also built connections that will be lifelong with my other coworkers and my boss. I am proud to say that I was invited to come back next summer if I choose to do so! The Purdue Ag. Career fair is definitely a great resource and encourage others, including freshmen to attend it!”
Bryce Martin, Junior, majoring in Agribusiness Management, with a minor in Crop Science, and a second minor in Organizational Leadership, from Evansville, IN -

“My roommate had interned with BASF for the past two years and he told me about his experiences and the opportunities that BASF had presented to him. I had a resume critique the night prior to the career fair with my fraternity house and two BASF representatives were there so I had them critique my resume and I got to learn a little more about their internship and business as well. A combination of these two things really sparked my interest in their company. I walked up to their booth and spoke with the people I had met the night prior and did my elevator speech along with handing them my resume and the conversation went from there.

I spent this summer living in Bismarck, North Dakota and did a fair amount of traveling between North and South Dakota. I also got to spend some time in Montana. However, I was a sales intern with BASF and was given a project that centered around sunflower fungicides. I spent time capturing plant health differences between BASF treated products vs. untreated controls. The results were great and I got to present my findings to BASF district managers from all over the United States and even some executives within the BASF Agricultural sector. I spent time observing Business Representatives daily work load ranging from walking fields on claims calls, observing salesman and distributor/retailer/farmer relationships and conversations, and got to learn BASF products and chemistries. I also got to learn a lot about different types of crops grown in the United States. I got a great experience this summer with BASF and learned a whole lot on herbicide and fungicide use.”

Aleah Scheurich, Senior, majoring in Animal Science with a concentration in Production from Rensselaer, IN -

“I found out about my Swine Sales internship with Merck Animal Health by networking with Abigail Thackery and Jordan Einhaus at the College of Agriculture Career Fair in the Fall of 2016. This summer I worked on a project that focused on detecting for internal parasites in swine herds, specifically the large roundworm (Ascaris suum), the whipworm (Trichuris suis), and the nodular worm (Oesophagostomum spp.). The goal of my internship was to educate and promote clients about a new Merck Animal Health water-mediated dewormer called, Safe-
Guard Aquasol. My responsibilities included calling on clients to schedule appointments, collecting diagnostic samples, sending samples to the laboratory to be analyzed, and communicating the results back to the clients and their trusted veterinarian.

I was also involved in a vaccination audit with Dr. Kelly Greiner, a Merck Animal Health Technical Service veterinarian. Together, we observed the vaccination procedure that was used at the farm by documenting any post-vaccination reactions, the noise level in the barn, the dosage administered, frequency of changing needles, temperature of vaccine and much more. Dr. Greiner and I also performed a necropsy on several early finisher pigs to determine the cause of death. I learned that Mulberry Heart Disease is caused from a deficiency in Vitamin E and Selenium and that infection of the lungs which causes coughing and rapid, shallow breathing is a common symptom of pneumonia.

In addition, I had the privilege to work on a Rotavirus research project with two veterinary students in North Carolina with Smithfield Foods. The lead veterinary student I worked with was sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, so it was interesting working with the minds of a Merck Animal Health competitor. There were 4 treatment groups of 12 sows that were used for the Rotavirus study, each sow was bred at the time Rotavirus feedback was given. The scope of this study was to trace the efficacy of the Rotavirus feedback litters post-farrowing to see if there was a difference in the immune response between the 4 treatment groups. My tasks included drawing blood from the jugular vein of a piglet, collecting colostrum from the sow, fecal swabs, ear tagging the piglets used for the study and labeling materials accurately to be sent to the laboratory for further examination.

I was able to work with some large swine accounts with my lead managers at Merck Animal Health and gain exposure to the life as a sales representative. It was a dream to work as an intern with one of the best pharmaceutical companies known. I would highly recommend any of the internship positions offered to students interested in this field, it has impacted my future and given me so many options to think about pursing as a career.”

Morgan McKinney, Senior, majoring in Animal Sciences, with a concentration in Production, from Greenfield, IN -

“Before the career fair, I always look to see who is going to be there and I pick out some companies that I think I would like to work for the summer. I do some research on the different companies so that when I go to the career fair and talk to the recruiters, I have a little knowledge about the company. I had a friend that worked for JBS the summer before and really
recommended it, so I did a little more research on this company so that when I went to the career fair, I was able to ask lots of questions to show them that I was really interested in their internship program.”