Food Animal Scholars – Summer Internships 2009

Joshua Duff

My summer experience with Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinic in Audubon, Iowa was very rewarding. Under Dr. Jason Hocker (Grow-Finish veterinarian for AMVC), I helped assist Boehringer Ingelheim with a Mycoplasma VaccineTrial. Also, while working with AMVC management services I was able to gain valuable experience and insight into the swine industry of Iowa through working in different phases of production at a vast array of facilities.

The picture was taken with other interns outside of AMVC’s Management Services office. I am on the far right side of the photograph.

Crystal Roberts

This summer, I worked for USDA ARS in Miles City, Montana at Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory. I worked for Dr. Mike MacNeil, a quantitative geneticist and Dr. Tom Geary, a reproductive physiologist. The project that I spent most of the summer working on was semen evaluation in a bull puberty study. One of the attached pictures was taken at a bull collection. I also had the opportunity to help with an embryo transfer study that studied fertility and embryo quality from large versus small follicle ovulating cows. I gained experience in artificial insemination, pregnancy detection by ultrasound, and lab assays. The other picture was taken at a cooperating ranch where I ultrasounded for pregnancy alongside Dr. Geary.
**Ben Winslow**

I spent my summer at a feedlot in southwestern Kansas. For most of the time, I was with the doctoring crew, helping heal sick animals. I learned about potential health problems of feedlot cattle and how to treat them. I also learned from the pen riders how to identify animals that are not feeling well. My other major activity was helping to process the new arrivals, which gave me additional insight into the health challenges encountered by new cattle and how best to prepare their immune systems. I also spent a few days with the feed crew, learning the importance of a proper diet. Overall, it was a life-enriching, powerfully educational experience.

**Ranette Goodwyn**

This summer I participated in the NCSU-USDA Veterinary Career Pathways Internship. It was a ten week program, where eight weeks were spent in Raleigh, NC at North Carolina State University CVM and the USDA offices located on Centennial Campus, and two weeks were spent in Ames, IA at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Every day was a different experience. During our times at CVM, we spent Thursdays with Dr. Jill Barnes getting a preview of what veterinary students learn in their first semester of anatomy. We dissected a dog cadaver and learned about the bones, muscles, nerves, arteries and veins of the limbs and the internal organs. We also learned about Epidemiology and Public Health with Dr. Peter Cowen. With Dr. Allen Cannedy, we went out on several farm calls and got plenty of hands-on experience with sheep, goats, llamas and even a yak while we did hoof trimmings, collected and processed fecal samples, shearing and general physical exams and vaccinations.

While working with the USDA, we learned about all their branches, such as APHIS, Veterinary Services, Wildlife Services, Animal Care and PPQ and got to spend time out in the field with employees under each branch. One of my favorite times was spent with Wildlife Services while we did a "goose round-up," on a flock of Canadian Geese removed from the premises of a correctional facility. We did Avian Influenza sampling on each bird by performing age and gender determination, tracheal and cloacal swabbing and cardiac bleedings. We assisted in inspections of a ranch and a garbage feeder farm and we also collected brain stems for BSE sampling.

During the two weeks spent in Iowa, one week was spent at the Center for Veterinary Biologics Laboratory and the second week was spent at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. We learned a variety of laboratory techniques and tests such as agarose gel electrophoresis, DNA extraction, egg inoculation and PCR. Time also was spent in the parasitology lab, where we performed tick identification, and the histology labs, where we learned how to make slides from start to finish.

There are many more experiences we had this summer, but this is just shows the wide variety of the things we did. I would highly recommend that future FAS students participate in this program because it really shows just how much veterinarians can do with their degree and it just may open their eyes to a career they never thought of before.
My summer experience took place in Wayne County, Ohio as well as Haywood county North Carolina, both of these were on Dairy Farms as well as working with some Vets on other Dairies in the surrounding area. During my time at Catalpadale Farms in Ohio, a 1,600 head Dairy with another location in Central Kentucky milking around 1,400 head owned and operated by John and Lois Douglas. (Photos are all from Ohio) I worked the majority of my time with the herdsman starting around 6:00 or 6:30am and working ~10hrs a day 6 days a week. Each morning we began with checking all cows in the I.C.U. and post-fresh pen. This included taking temps, checking rumen activity, palpation, practicing infusing and giving lots of dextrose, calcium and hypersaline IVs as well as Banamine, Exceed and other routine medical shots and pills. During the month of June the farm calved in 200 cows and heifers so there were plenty of animals to look after. I also helped in vaccinating and moving lots of heifers and lots of other dairy work. I was able to use my knowledge of Spanish to communicate with the Hispanic workers and also watched and assisted with many D.A. surgeries, and also watched one Roll and Tack procedure. During my time on the farm in NC which is my family’s Dairy I did many of the same things, but on a much smaller scale. I also practiced palpating with the Vet. During our herd check, milked and managed the calves, and other farm duties.

Food Animal Scholars Program:
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/FoodAnimalScholars/