

Grace Heritage Farms Youth Internship

Overview

Interns will participate in hands-on experiences catered to teaching regenerative agriculture, targeted rotational grazing, livestock health, farmer/rancher partnerships for proactive weed management between species, budget management, and direct value-added, consumer marketing through agritourism. Students will be expected to develop and present educational material to the public.

Objectives

Throughout the internship, interns will:

1. Describe three basic herd management practices of meat and dairy goats.
2. Plan and execute the managed grazing of meat and dairy goat herds through seasonal needs.
3. List and explain five benefits of targeted grazing with goats.
4. Have seven hours of direct-consumer points of contact, with at least four of those hours being during a county-wide agritourism event.
5. Visit three local agritourism-focused farms to understand direct-to-consumer marketing and production.
6. Participate in value-added production of microdairy products and consumer education.
7. Budget for, prepare, and present an educational project to agritourism event attendees.

Points of Emphasis

- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Livestock health
- Regenerative agriculture
- Family and community-centered farming
- Meat and dairy goats, poultry, no-till gardening, and composting
- Proactive weed management via targeted pasture grazing through rotating goats
- Microdairy product production and preparation
- Agritourism
 - Observation points during farm tours: sustainable agriculture, profitability, high quality of life, public education, direct-to-consumer marketing

Expectations

1. Up to 270 hours total from now to October, to be scheduled individually with each intern.
The bulk of the hours will be worked in June, July, and August.
2. Spend a day on the Spring Miami County Farm Tour (May 11-12) and/or Linn County Farm Tour (May 18)
3. Create an educational display for the Fall Miami County Farm Tour (Oct 19-20)
4. Be committed to learning about regenerative agriculture and open to offering suggestions

Payment

At a rate of \$10.50/hour, payment will be issued as a monthly stipend. Interns will complete a W9 and will be issued a 1099 in January 2025. Funding is made possible through the SARE Youth Educator Grant Program.