Altria Agricultural Production Internship

Established for undergraduate students with an interest in pursuing a career in agronomic crop production. Students must have completed one year of college to be eligible. These are paid internships, with a housing allowance if necessary, and are conducted for a minimum of 12 weeks during the summer at the Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Blackstone, VA. Students will participate in the research and extension activities of the tobacco agronomy, pathology, or genetics program (information on the pathology and agronomy program is below). Interns will conduct a research project with results presented to the industry sponsor. Please email a brief summary of your agricultural experience, why you chose agriculture as your field of study, why you chose your major, and what you hope to be doing in the field of agriculture 10 years after graduation. Internship is awarded annually on the basis of academic achievement, demonstrated interest and activities in agricultural areas, and plans to work in the agricultural industry after graduation. Contact Carol Wilkinson at wilki@vt.edu for further information or if you have any questions. To apply for this internship, email your CV by March 10, 2023 to wilki@vt.edu.

The Plant Pathology program at VT's Southern Piedmont AREC integrates the latest technologies to study plant disease epidemiology and molecular plant-pathogen interactions in order to address the needs of field-crop growers and other stakeholders in the region for improved integrated pest management. Undergraduate students who participate in the Plant Pathology program will gain hands-on skills in experimental design, in-field disease diagnosis, plant inoculation assays, microbe culturing, DNA and RNA extraction, conventional PCR, quantitative PCR, etc.

The tobacco agronomy program addresses a wide range of general tobacco production topics: greenhouse transplant plant production, fertilization, sucker control, harvest management and tobacco curing as well as addressing production practices and new technologies to reduce the environmental footprint of tobacco production. Potential topics for intern research projects may include quantifying the performance of soilless media and seed in the greenhouse, bio-stimulant effects on tobacco plant growth, multispectral and hyperspectral imaging of tobacco using ground based and UAS instruments, real-time soil moisture monitoring and irrigation scheduling, and others.