



#1 IN REMOTE SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE



Josie Malecek

Josie Malecek, a student in agricultural business at Iowa State University, was looking for an internship that allowed her to step beyond her usual roles. Through opportunities provided by the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative, Malecek obtained a semester internship with AgriSync, which extended into summer. AgriSync utilizes mobile video to connect farmers and their advisers.

Serving as the Customer Support Intern for AgriSync, Malecek strengthened her communication and marketing skills by creating customer testimonial campaigns and marketing components. As the front-line, point of contact, Malecek was an integral and important part of the AgriSync team, charged with ensuring users' support needs were regularly being met. Throughout her experience Malecek gained sales experience, while supporting the AgriSync product.

"My experience with AgriSync has been phenomenal. I've had the opportunity to gain hands on experience, and learn a great deal from many experts in the agriculture industry. I couldn't have asked for a better or more talented team to work with this summer than everyone at AgriSync. It truly has been a great learning experience," said Malecek.



Summer internship PROGRAM

Majoring in Horticulture, Whitney Pokorny, was looking for an opportunity that allowed her to turn classroom knowledge and experiences into practical, real-world situations. The AgEI program helped Pokorny find an internship with Nature Road Farms. The internship provided experiences in the application of food safety standards, fertilization regimens, and drip irrigation systems. Traveling across the state of Iowa, Pokorny also had the opportunity to work with many other farm operations and gained a better understanding of how different produce and farming operations can function.

"This adventure helped me to see how there are so many different ways to start a farm and let it grow, and it helped me to get some ideas of what I might want to do on my own farm someday," said Pokorny.

Whitney Pokorny



Having previous experience within the aquaculture industry, Jacob Lauver, agricultural studies major, wanted to find an internship that allowed him to continue to advance his knowledge in the field. Through previous AgEI internships, Lauver was able to join the VeroBlue Farms team, a Barramundi Sea Bass facility. Over the course of the summer, Lauver was involved with research projects that analyzed the correlation between barometric pressure and fish feeding times.

"The AgEI Program has opened many doors of opportunity for Iowa State students like myself. This program helps you get connected with new industries in the state such as Aquaculture," said Lauver.

Jacob
Lauver



With the goal of developing a comprehensive knowledge of what's required to make a CSA farm successful, Dominic Snyder embarked on an AgEI internship with Mairets Garden Center located in Muscatine, Iowa. During this experience, Snyder was hoping to gain a full understanding of the type of labor and inputs that are required to make a business function and the financial backing that is needed. Unfortunately, during Snyder's internship, a hailstorm swept through the Muscatine area damaging beyond repair the majority of the crops. While this was unexpected and there was little that could be done to salvage many of the plants, Snyder was still able to learn many practical lessons and the risks associated with starting a business.

Dominic
Snyder

"As an entrepreneur you're going to face adversity at times. Successful entrepreneurs will find a way through the tough times. That's why I enjoyed working for Shane. He found a way to stay positive no matter what happened," said Snyder.