

Hinkle Summer Interns



MICHAEL RHODAS
PERFORMANCE LIVESTOCK ANALYTICS

Michael Rhodas, a senior in software engineering at Iowa State University, was looking for an internship opportunity that would allow him to continue to develop his professional skill set while gaining hands-on experience. Performance Livestock Analytics (PLA), a new startup in Ames, Iowa, helps livestock producers become more sustainable, profitable and efficient. Through a precision agriculture application, PLA is able to bring big data solutions to the livestock industry.

Rhodas had many unique projects during his internship, focused on making the mobile application more user-friendly and developing features to analyze various parts of livestock production, including average feeding schedules.

Rhodas commented on his internship experience, "Performance Livestock Analytics is a cutting edge start-up company, bringing data science to livestock farmers all around the world. It is exciting that the Iowa State AgEI program can bring such great business opportunities for us students!"

For more information on Performance Livestock Analytics, please visit:
<http://www.performancelivestockanalytics.com>.



RACHEL WILKENS
NATURE ROAD FARM

Long Islander and senior in agricultural business, **Rachel Wilkens**, has dreams of starting her own farmstead retreat for military veterans and their families. Having brothers that served in the military, Wilkens had first-hand exposure to the struggles many veterans face upon returning home. Coming to Iowa State, Wilkens was looking for a way to gain experience she could take back to New York.

This summer, Wilkens had the opportunity to work with Nature Road Farm, a unique CSA outside of Boone, Iowa, that delivers fresh, quality produce to homes and businesses in the Ames and Des Moines area.

Wilkens was immersed in many different parts of the business and was able to really contribute to the success of the business. Her duties ranged from day-to-day tasks, like tending to the crops, and arranging deliveries, to setting up irrigation systems, and conducting water quality tests.

Overall, Wilkens had this to say about her hands on experience, "This summer I was lucky enough to work at Nature Road Farm. I got to experience first-hand all different aspects of creating a startup farm, from weeding to deliveries. From planting to harvesting, to deliveries, I was humbled by the whole experience."



BRANDI BARRETT
FAST FARM

Brandi Barrett, recent graduate in agricultural business from Iowa State University, first became involved with the AgEI program through her enrollment in Kevin Kimple's ECON 334: Entrepreneurship in Agriculture course. During the semester long course she developed her business concept for Fast Farm, a web-based platform to improve the process of buying and selling agricultural equipment.

As Brandi began to consider her options for post-graduation employment, she decided she wanted to continue to pursue her agricultural business and partnered with the AgEI program to continue to develop Fast Farm.

Fast Farm optimizes the commerce of agricultural equipment by providing a direct and efficient line of communication between farmers and farm equipment dealers. Fast farm focuses on being more efficient and saving time, which ultimately saves agriculturalists money.

For more information on Fast Farm, please visit www.fastfarmapp.com or contact them via email at support@fastfarmapp.com.



REED BURRES
AGRISYNC

Senior in agricultural business, **Reed Burres**, has had an interest in sales and customer service. Burres was looking for an internship that would allow him to continue to develop his skills in these areas. Through the AgEI program, Burres was able to find his summer internship with AgriSync, a technology company based in the greater Des Moines area.

AgriSync is focused on the people of agriculture and the way they collaborate. Through a web-based application, farmers are able to easily connect with their service providers and consultants without the need for on-site visits, saving time and money, and improving efficiency. By focusing on the key relationships between farmers and their trusted, and local agribusinesses.

When asked about his internship, Burres had this to say about his experience, "AgriSync has given me an in-depth opportunity to further develop my interpersonal skills through my daily interactions. I have been able to develop a whole new skill set by continually working to anticipate our customer's needs and any questions they may have during their experience using AgriSync."

For more information on AgriSync please visit: <https://www.agrisync.com/>.