

2021 Dairy Beef Feeding Project Internship – Beef Focus

This internship will focus on research data collection from beef producers as part of a larger USDA funded project evaluating dairy beef crossbred feeding and management practices. As part of this internship, the intern will work with county-based agricultural agents/educators to collect on-farm data from 8 beef producers across Wisconsin that raise dairy beef crossbreds. Data collected will include body weights, milk feeding information, grow/finish diet management, housing, and disease/treatment information. The intern would travel to participating farms to gather data with mileage reimbursed. Depending on the status of Covid-19 and travel/meeting restrictions, the intern may need to work with the county personnel to cooperatively gather on-farm cattle data. The intern will compile the data from arrival to weaning during summer 2021 and report growth results to individual farms. At the end of the internship, a factsheet or paper summarizing the data gathered will be completed and presented to project participants and county personnel. This is a great opportunity to be involved in a project to understand dairy beef crossbred calf growth and gain experience and skills working with beef cattle and producers.

In addition to the survey project, the intern may be able to learn and conduct nutritional laboratory analysis and field work depending on available time. Students would learn and understand basics of forage plot research and nutrition laboratory procedures (dry matter, ash, fiber, protein, and minerals).

The intern will be based in the USDA lab at the Marshfield ARS where the project leader is located. Previous interns have stayed at short-term lease apartments available in Marshfield. Assistance can be provided to locate housing if needed. The position is scheduled to work 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily with possible earlier or later travel times. The internship will be up to 14 weeks long (mid-May to late August) with the intern paid \$14/hour. There is schedule flexibility depending on the student's summer activities (showing, fairs, vacation) that can be worked around if needed. The intern will need to provide their own transportation to/from the work site and participating farms.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Akins by email (msakins@wisc.edu) or phone (715-384-9459). To apply please send a resume by email.