

# UTILIZING STAR FUNDS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AS A MEANS OF RECRUITMENT TO TEACH AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

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## ★ BACKGROUND

- Indiana is a member of the NAAE Teach Ag Campaign State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program to engage in recruitment and retention efforts
- Of the annual \$8,000 STAR funds, about \$6,000 goes towards supporting summer internships for Ag Ed majors to intern with Indiana Ag Ed Teachers
- Program was designed to provide competing opportunity for students to explore Ag Ed as a career path instead of pursuing industry internships
- **Program Purpose:** to spark an interest in current undergraduate students to consider entering the teaching profession, and to provide Agricultural Education students hands-on experience in Agricultural Education.

## ★ HOW IT WORKS

- **Late October:** Indiana Ag Ed Teachers submit applications to Purdue Ag Ed Program to serve as potential host site
- Requirements to be a host teacher include:
  - Member of Indiana Association of Agricultural Educators
  - Are an effective or highly effective teacher
  - Have a Summer SAE or Extended Summer Contract
  - Plans to attend the IAAE Summer Conference and Indiana FFA State Convention
- **Early December:** Students apply to internship program utilizing program application and submit to Purdue Ag Ed staff, indicating their preference for a host site
- **Early January:** Purdue Ag Ed staff member matches interns with host teachers
- **Mid May – August:** Internship experiences include:
  - Classroom instruction planning and delivery
  - FFA advising, management, and coaching
  - SAE management and supervision
  - Attendance at Summer Ag Teacher Workshop
  - Attendance at Indiana FFA State Convention



## ★ COST & RESOURCES NEEDED

- Purdue University staff member coordinates application and matching process. Also supervises management of the internship over the summer in concert with clerical and office personnel support to ensure adherence to work and pay regulations.
- Additional annual donor support
- Compensation provided:
  - Intern: up to \$3,000 total, working no more than 40 hours/week, 300 hours total
  - Host FFA Chapter: \$500 for use in local programming

## ★ FUTURE PLANS & ADVICE

- Generate enough donated gift funding for a larger percentage of Ag Ed students to participate
- Have enough funding to support students completing the internship multiple years
- Additional annual donor support is critical!
- Need to place students with host sites in late fall or early spring so that they don't plan on accepting other internships
- Communicate frequently, providing guidance, support, and feedback to both interns and host teachers throughout the internships

## ★ RESULTS TO DATE

Year	Number of Interns	First Job: Teaching Ag	First Job: Non-Teaching Ag	Switched Majors Before Graduation	Not Yet Graduated
2016	6	5	0	1	0
2017	8	7	1	0	0
2018	10	3	3*	3	1
2019	6	2	N/A	1	3
2020	6	N/A	1*	0	5

Note: \* = An alum from this year is currently seeking an Ag Ed Teaching Position.

*"Oh, this was SO important. Never did I think we would have circumstances like this [COVID-19] when we applied to host an intern. In reality, this is an excellent opportunity for a student to learn how we are trying our best to virtually serve our students...Hannah is now way more prepared than I ever was!"*  
- 2020 Host Site Teacher



*"My internship experience has made me appreciate access to internet, the social value of FFA, direct student interactions in the classroom, and mostly flexibility. I learned so much about technology, student engagement and how the lesson plans all have to be changed to meet the situation and needs of students. I now have no doubts about my passion to meet students where they are and teach agriculture as my career choice. Thank you!"*  
- 2020 Ag Ed Intern

