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Summer 2012 USMARC Undergraduate Research Internship Program

Program:

The USMARC Undergraduate Research Internship Program provides an opportunity for college students interested in a possible research career in animal agriculture to receive cutting edge research experience while under the mentorship of established ARS scientists. Students will be selected on a competitive basis to fill one of six internships, one within each Research Unit at the Center. Students will apply for a specific research project by selecting from abstracts that describe available projects within each Research Unit. In addition to their research project, students will participate in formal weekly discussions, which will provide the opportunity to share their experiences with their peers and other research scientists at the Center.

Facilities:

The USMARC is a world-renowned animal research facility within ARS, a research agency of the USDA. The Mission of the USMARC is to develop scientific information and new technology to solve high priority problems for the U.S. Beef, Swine, and Sheep Industries. The Center is located in South Central Nebraska on 35,000 acres. Research approaches involve multidisciplinary teams consisting of 54 scientists and post-docs as well as 200 supporting personnel with emphasis on both short-term and long-term solutions to animal production and product quality. About 50% of the research effort focuses on beef cattle, 30% on swine, and 20% on sheep. The Center is organized into six Research Units.



Application packages must be postmarked by February 1, 2012.

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.
USDA/ARS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

To contact us:

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Letter from the Director

Thank you for your interest in the 2012 USMARC Summer Research Internship Program.

The U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) will be sponsoring the 2nd year of a Summer Research Internship Program for undergraduate students. As the Director of the USMARC, I am committed to exploring opportunities to strengthen ties between scientists at USMARC and faculty, staff, and students at neighboring colleges and universities. I believe that developing a program at the undergraduate level is such an opportunity.

You will find on this link information for the USMARC Undergraduate Research Internship Program and abstracts that describe projects for which we would like to attract students. We have projects representing our research units; Animal Health, Environmental Management, Genetics and Breeding, Meat Safety and Quality, Nutrition, and Reproduction. I am committed to supporting one student in each Research Unit. An application form, along with a list of supporting documents, can be found on this link for students to use in applying to the Program. Application packages must be postmarked by February 1, 2012. We will select six students by March 1, 2012.

We are seeking students likely to pursue advanced degrees in research. We will provide a salary for students for the duration of their summer employment. Although the selected students have the option to work from May 2012 through August 2012, we plan to provide an educational program for the selected students that will run from June 4 to July 27, 2012. That program will consist of weekly meetings to expose them to the scope of research going on at USMARC and opportunities to spend time shadowing other researchers during their stay at USMARC.

If you feel this also represents an opportunity for you or your student to earn academic credit, we ask that a faculty member be assigned to the student for that activity. We will not be able to monitor the activities you might require of them to obtain credit (such as periodic reports), nor will we be able to be involved in assessment activities (such as exams or papers). We would provide the necessary critiques of the student's activities in research and of the research experience.

I was in academia for thirty-five years and thoroughly enjoyed the teaching components of my academic appointment. I look forward to this opportunity to interact with students and to provide them with a positive research experience here at USMARC. I thank you in advance for your interest and for making our program known to others.
Sincerely,



E. JOHN POLLAK

Center Director, USMARC



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How to Apply

Eligibility: (To qualify a student must)

- Be currently enrolled at a college or university
- Have completed their sophomore year by start of employment
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0

[Click here for Application Form:](#)

(Also a link to fillable pdf file located on USMARC Homepage)

[Click here for Abstracts:](#)

(Also a link to pdf file located on USMARC Homepage)

Benefits:

- Opportunity to work with world-renowned animal research scientists
- Hands-on experience in diverse areas of animal science
- Experience as a federal employee within the USDA
- Idyllic prairie setting with abundant meat animal resources (beef cattle, sheep and swine) on 35,000 acre campus
- A salary of \$10.95 per hour plus earned leave benefits

Timeline:

- Applications must be postmarked by **February 1, 2012.**
- Selections made by **March 1, 2012.**
- Employment is available beginning **May, 2012** up to **August 31, 2012.**
- The educational program will run **June 4, 2012** through **July 27, 2012.**

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