

# Interning on the Hill

By Stephanie Carlson, 2012 IPPA legislative intern



I got the chance to work for six weeks this summer in Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley's office in Washington, D.C. I was able to work with agriculture policy and research while also interacting with constituents on a daily basis. The Farm Bill was by far the coolest thing that I was able to actively help with and watch move through the legislative process. My role was to organize an amendment table as each of the nearly 300 amendments to the bill were filed by senators. This helped the staff make recommendations to the



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senator. The interaction between the staff and other offices truly gave me a better understanding of how Congress works. Seeing the Senate pass the 2012 Farm Bill gave me a feeling of accomplishment.

Iowans are nice people and some of the kindest citizens. Every day there are many, many visitors to our nation's capital. Sen. Grassley takes pride in being from Iowa and loves it when Iowans visit Washington. I had the privilege of taking a group of Iowans on a tour of the U.S. Capitol almost every day. It was often the highlight of my day when I got to talk to such nice, friendly and down-to-earth people. The Capitol is so full of rich history and pretty neat to imagine all of the famous people who've walked those halls.

In my free time, I enjoyed exploring the city and socializing with other interns from across the country. Whether we saw

the sights, attended Washington Nationals games, or tried out the local restaurants, there was always something exciting to do. One of my neatest experiences was attending the Fourth of July festivities. I attended the parade, saw the Declaration of Independence and Constitution and watched the fireworks to cap off America's birthday. I have nothing but fond memories from my time spent in Washington, D.C.

Iowa is a great place to call home and it felt good to be back. The last six weeks of the summer I spent working at IPPA gearing up for the Pork Tent at the Iowa State Fair. My duties included lining up the Honorary Chefs, working with the radio and social media promotions, as well as the county and committee volunteers to make the Pork Tent run successfully. This internship has been invaluable.

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The people I have met and the connections made will certainly help me as I pursue a career in the swine industry. I am passionate about production agriculture and find myself

interested in how government can affect our livelihoods. I'm a senior this fall at Iowa State University finishing my animal science degree.

Being a part of Sen. Grassley's office was a great opportunity for me and I will be forever grateful for the experience I had as an intern on the Hill.