

Internship Program A Success: Program To Expand

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MidAmerica Farmer Grower

DIXON SPRINGS, ILL.

Dr. Frank Ireland, Research Animal Scientist with the Department of Animal Science at the University of Illinois has helped to develop an internship program for the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs.

"This internship program is sponsored by the

ties designed to give hands on experience.

"This program is designed to give an experiential activity or hands on experience", said Ireland, "we feel this is an area that a lot of our students coming out of the urban areas don't get before they graduate."

Ireland stated that this program has been tremendously successful and it's only in it's second year. They have also received a research



The 2009 internship program at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center had five students under the guidance of Dr. Frank Ireland. These students benefited from the hands on experience they received in addition to their regular college credits. They are shown left to right: Zack Beever, Megan McDuvitt, Dr. Frank Ireland, Camilo Arango, Anne Massie and Alex Titlow.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

office of research with the University of Illinois College of Agriculture Consumer Environmental Sciences. 2009 was it's second year," said Ireland.

Ireland had three interns in 2008 and says that he had five undergraduate interns during the summer of 2009.

"One of our interns, Camillo Arango, worked on a project with the added value for beef cattle in southern Illinois, looking at the effects of carbon credit values, affects of age and source verification and trying to identify ways to add value to the cattle for the producers."

"I had four other interns, Megan McDevott, Alex Titlow, Zack Beever, and Anne Massie, were working in animal science here at Dixon Springs. These interns have been working on various research projects where they gathered a wealth of experience," said Ireland.

According to Ireland the 11-week program is designed for the students to actually live and stay at the station. They check the animals daily, are taught to give proper vaccinations and identify illness in the animals, following all of the protocols on animal health established at the university. Driving tractors, mowing pastures, fence building, feeding cattle and driving feed equipment are all part of the daily activi-

grant working with Shawnee Community College to provide an internship program for their junior college students at Dixon Springs. "We are pleased to continue to work with Shawnee Community College on the development of their internship program. They currently bring their ag class for laboratory once a week to Dixon Springs and I am pleased to participate in that program as well."

Ireland stated they are also participating in the graduate programs of students at SIU Carbondale.

"With all the animals we have, we have about four thousand acres dedicated to animal science research. We have about eight hundred pregnant cows in the fall calving herd. No place else in the country has the number of animals to provide this experience that we can here at Dixon Springs," said Ireland.

This is a paid internship as well as a competitive program. It not only gives University of Illinois students the opportunity to get college credit for their work but to take all that they learned to go out into the workforce and give themselves a leg up on the competition. Δ

KRISTEN JOHNSON-PIND: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower

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