

Internship Gives Student Feel For Work

NEWARK, Del. — An intern isn't always a medical trainee. Interns from the University of Delaware College of Agricultural Sciences deal with any number of topics including constructing concrete pads for poultry manure research.

"It was challenging to be given a problem and to come up with an answer," said intern Jared Adkins, a senior in agricultural engineering technology. "The concrete pad I designed doesn't look like much, but a lot went into it."

Adkins served an internship last summer at the university's Research and Education Center (REC) in Georgetown. He was asked to design and build a concrete pad for Dr. Ken Lomax, agricultural engineering professor, and George "Bud" Malone, poultry scientist.

The two researchers will use the pad to collect runoff from stockpiled poultry manure that is left exposed to the elements. The runoff will then be analyzed for excess nitrogen that could seep into groundwater.

Adkins had taken several courses with Lomax and had worked for Malone the previous summer. When the opportunity for an intern arose, he was a natural choice.

Designing a concrete pad sounds straight-forward enough, but Adkins had several constraints. His challenges were a limited budget, finding a suitable location for easy disposal of contaminated runoff, and a way to replicate the research.

Adkins solution was so simple that his advisors wondered why they hadn't thought of it. A 16-by-30-foot pad was constructed of low cement concrete material — an economical alternative to regular concrete. The pad slopes into the corners to make collection of runoff easy. By locating the pad near the REC's swine research unit, runoff can be

readily disposed of into an existing swine-manure lagoon.

To solve the problem of replication, Adkins divided the pad into quadrants. Thus, data for four replications can be collected simultaneously. When Lomax and Malone begin research this spring, two quadrants will be controls. The other two will have treatments — wood chips placed under

the manure to determine if they absorb any of the nitrogen that would otherwise leach into runoff water.

"The internship was a successful practical learning experience for Jared," said Lomax. "I try to structure an internship so that the student has a specific project with only the goal dictated. In contrast, a summer job with tasks assigned

each morning would not be a good internship."

"The project gave me a chance to apply what I learned in survey, drafting, and construction classes," Adkins said "I liked running my own project and seeing how it ties in with other research. Internships are a real good idea for students who want to try out the kind of work they plan to do after they graduate."

Teens Learn To Save For Rainy Day

NEWARK, Del. — If asked how they invest their cash, many teen-agers would answer "CDs" — as in compact discs. But an innovative program, new to Delaware high schools, is helping teens think about investing in another kind of "CD" — certificates of deposit.

The High School Financial Planning Program was launched in 1984, and since then more than 315,000 students nationwide have learned money management basics through the course.

In Delaware, the six-unit curriculum has been available to teachers since the fall of 1992, reports extension home economics agent Roxane Whittaker. Presented jointly by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and the nonprofit College for Financial Planning, the program provides training and resources to interested teachers of social studies, economics, and other disciplines.

In-service sessions are being offered to teachers in all three counties by Whittaker and fellow ex-

tension agents Maria Pippidis and Mary Wilcoxon. Upon completion of the three-hour training, teachers are invited to order the free curricular materials, including activity-filled, 135-page student workbooks.

But is there really a need for personal finance planning at the high school level? After all, teens just have a few bucks in their pockets collected from baby-sitting and odd jobs, right?

Wrong!

Last year, teens spent more than \$93 billion, and they have access to more than 3.5 million credit cards, says Whittaker. In addition, more than two-thirds of U.S. teens report that they are worried about their financial futures. What's more, studies show that high school seniors are frequently unprepared for the financial decisions they face upon graduation.

Where do teens get their urge to splurge?

Perhaps they look to their elders. As a nation, we haven't been setting a good example. For more

than a quarter of a century, many Americans have been challenged to save even four percent of their income — in contrast with the 10 percent recommended by the majority of financial planners.

Cooperative extension offers a variety of financial counseling programs for families, singles and seniors, as well as teens. In her work, Whittaker said that she encounters many people facing

bankruptcy or other serious financial problems.

"If some of these individuals had been reached earlier, perhaps they would not be in such grave financial trouble today," said Whittaker. "We view the High School Financial Planning Program as a preventive course to change teens' attitudes and encourage greater fiscal responsibility."

Plant Of The Year Selected

HILLIARD, Ohio — The Perennial Plant Association's Perennial Plant of the Year for 1994 is Astilbe Sprite. The perennial was selected for its long season ornamental effect and adaptability to most areas of the U.S. and Canada. Tiny, pink flowers on graceful, arching plumes appear in

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