Position Description

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<th>Position Number: 29</th>
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<tr>
<td>Position Title: Dairy Sustainability Project</td>
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<td>Location: Southborough, MA</td>
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<td>Duration: now – August 19, 2022</td>
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**EEA INTERNSHIP POSITIONS ARE UNPAID**

**Brief Description of Internship Position:**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources’ mission is to help keep the Massachusetts’ food supply safe and secure, and to work to keep Massachusetts agriculture economically and environmentally sound. Under the supervision of the Commissioner’s Office, the Dairy Sustainability Project Intern will work with Department staff to assess the current challenges and opportunities that exist within the Massachusetts dairy sector and assist with developing a comprehensive report of findings and recommendations.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the United States Department of Agriculture’s 2017 Agriculture Census, Massachusetts is home to approximately 110 dairy farms situated on a total of 49,744 acres of farmland. In Massachusetts, the dairy industry contributed approximately $36.5 million to the state’s local economy, and produced roughly 200 million pounds of fresh, nutritious, wholesome milk a year which is used to make many value-added products like cheese, yogurt, ice cream, and butter. However, the number of dairy farms (both in Massachusetts and nationally) have continued to decline due to industry challenges that include maintaining a stable, legal workforce, environmental concerns, depressed market pricing, access to markets, declining consumer demand for fluid milk, and tremendous financial pressures.

MDAR is committed to serving as a resource to dairy farms and in response to the identified challenges above, has convened an internal working group to meet with farmers and understand how we can best support the industry. Through farm visits, calls, and meetings, MDAR staff are compiling information about the challenges and opportunities facing the dairy industry to serve as a guide for next steps in terms of response efforts.

The Dairy Sustainability Project Internship will work with MDAR staff to compile data from interviews, meetings, and events, develop a comprehensive report, and further evaluate ways to assist the Massachusetts dairy industry. In addition, this internship will explore additional avenues to foster connections between MDAR, the dairy industry, and stakeholders. The project will also incorporate existing data obtained through the Department’s USDA Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) grant work.
Description of Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Work collaboratively with MDAR staff to obtain, analyze, and synthesize data regarding interviews and meetings with the Massachusetts dairy industry.
2. Develop a comprehensive report from data obtained and include recommendations and action items for MDAR staff to review.
3. Assist in maintaining project data relevant to the dairy sustainability project.
4. Provide timely updates to MDAR staff on progress of report and project support needed.
5. Attend Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) Advisory Board and MA Dairy Promotion Board meetings as applicable.
6. Other duties and projects as assigned.

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

1. Experience with Microsoft Office, especially Excel, Word and Outlook.
2. Creative skills and experience with either Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Suite programs is a plus, although training is available.
3. Written and oral communication skills.
4. Ability to attend to details sufficiently to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness of work.
5. Ability to maintain accurate records with attention to detail.

Hours per week:

10-25 hours per week from Summer 2022. Once trained, flexible dates, in-house and on your own work assignments.

Other relevant information:

Interning with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is a rewarding opportunity for a Marketing, Communications, Animal Science, Business, or Public Administration major.