

BEEFING UP MY EXPERIENCES

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TWG Farm and Ranch Management

Elizabeth, Illinois



Herd Assistant May 20 - August 1, 2024

Top 3 Internship Duties Performed

Herd Health Checks

Use a side-by-side to check various pastures, monitoring the cattle closely for any signs of illness or lameness, ensuring that timely intervention occurs if necessary for overall herd health.

Cattle Handling / Chute Work

Between artificially inseminating, transferring embryos, and pregnancy checks, cattle were in the chute regularly. We struggled with the calves getting pinkeye, causing us to run calves through the chute for treatment.

Creep Feeder and Mineral Feeder Management

Regularly checking the creep and mineral feeders, ensuring they stayed filled. Maintaining these feeders provides cows and calves easy access to these supplements.



Skills Developed

- **Data Management** - learned how to use Cattlemax to keep records on Purebred cattle
- **Sorting Cows and Calves in a Barn**
- **Johnes Testing** - taking fecal samples of adult cattle to test for Johnes disease

New Experiences

- **Farm equipment operation** - gained experience operating skid loaders and tractors
- **Heat checking** - gained experience monitoring females in heat and watched AI and ET be performed

Advice

Even if you think you know what you want to do, don't be afraid to try something different for a summer. If there's an internship that sounds interesting, try it out.



Testimonial

This experience allowed me to expand my knowledge of the purebred cattle industry, made me confident of my passion for beef cattle, and helped me gain skills that I will use in my future career.