

# Day in the Life of a Dairy Genetics Research Intern



Research under Dr. James Koltes at the Iowa State University Dairy Farm

## Feed the cows!

First, reclaim yesterday's feed and record each individual weight. Use the skidsteer to load the tractor with feed, and drop feed ASAP! A cow should have feed available at all times.



## Sampling

Our project took many samples, including fecal, milk, and blood at least 2-3 times a week. Each are important in analyzing dairy genomes!

## Skills Developed

Communication, recording data, completing health checks, fast problem solving, lab skills, using a tractor/skidsteer, working hands-on with cattle and knowing flight zone



## Top 3 New Skills

- Taking blood samples
- DNA Isolation and Nanodropping
- Immediate problem solving and effective communication

## Impact

This internship taught me how a research trial works, as well as the importance of daily farm chores and the importance of integrity of data. I also loved learning new lab skills!



## Why an internship?

Working an internship will teach you so much more than you can believe! They are a great way to get out of your comfort zone and step into the dairy research industry.