Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Produce Safety Internship

Summer 2027 | May 17, 2027 through August 13, 2027

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) is seeking an intern for the summer of 2027, from May 17, 2027 through August 13, 2027. The selected candidate will primarily work with the Produce Safety Team on the Farm Inventory Maintenance Project, reaching out to farms across Tennessee to verify and update existing farm information. This project will help TDA build a clearer picture of Tennessee's fresh produce industry and how the department can effectively connect with growers across the state.

Location:

Ellington Agricultural Center
Porter Building
436 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220

Major Duties

Farm Inventory Maintenance Project

- Assist the Produce Safety Program Coordinator with implementation of the Farm Inventory Maintenance Project.
- Contact Tennessee farms by phone and other available methods to verify and update existing farm information.
- Collect and organize farm information to improve the accuracy of TDA's inventory and help define Tennessee's fresh produce industry landscape.
- Assist TDA staff in connecting with growers through farmers markets and other agricultural venues.

Outreach and Education

- Participate with TDA staff in farmers markets, grower meetings, agricultural events, workshops, and other outreach activities as opportunities are available.
- Provide produce safety information and resources to farmers and other stakeholders.
- Assist with outreach materials and communications related to the Farm Inventory Maintenance Project.

Produce Safety and Food Industry Experience

- Shadow Produce Safety, Food, and Dairy inspectors during routine inspections and other field activities as opportunities are available.
- Gain exposure to TDA's role in food safety, agriculture, and regulatory programs.

Other duties may be assigned as needed.

Education Requirements

- Applicants must possess a high school diploma and be currently seeking a degree in food science, agriculture, or a related area of study.
- Recent college graduates, master's students, and doctoral students may apply.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Essential Knowledge and Required Skills

- Interest in agriculture, food safety, public service, or state government.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Comfortable contacting and speaking with farmers by phone.
- Ability to work independently and organize information accurately.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office.
- General knowledge of the agriculture industry is preferred but not required.

Comments

- This is a paid internship.
- Some travel may be required.
- Interns will have opportunities to participate in field activities and outreach events as available.
- This internship is part of the TDA's central internship program. Interns may participate in program activities and must complete an improvement project within their assigned division, followed by a presentation to Executive Leadership at the end of the internship term.
- For more information on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, please visit the TDA website.

Working Conditions

- This internship is primarily office-based, with opportunities for travel, field activities, and remote work at times.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through the Formstack application available on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's careers page. To be considered for this internship opportunity, you must have the following documents prepared:

- Resume
- Letter of intent
- Most recent transcript
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- DD214 (veteran candidates only)

Questions about this application or any internship opportunity may be directed to Jamye Freeman at Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov.

Other Information

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.