

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Plant Sciences & Entomology Internship

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), Division of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) is seeking an intern for the spring of 2027 (January 18, 2027 – April 14, 2027). The selected candidate will spend time with the Plant Certification program area under CIS. This internship is designed to offer the chosen candidate a hands-on experience with plant sciences, entomology, and associated regulatory activities performed by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Location:

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

Major Duties by Program Discipline:

Licensing & Inspection:

- Become familiar with Tennessee's phytosanitary regulatory framework, including import and export requirements.
- Assist Plant Certification office staff with reviewing new business applications.
- Shadow inspectors during routine inspections at nurseries, greenhouses, retail locations, and other field locations.

Entomology & Apiary:

- Become familiar with entomological pests that impact plant and honeybee health.
- Shadow the State Entomologist and the State Apiarist while they perform fieldwork, including setting and retrieving traps for insects of concern and insect identification.
- Assist with Spotted Lanternfly monitoring and control efforts in the Davidson County area.

Plant Pathology:

- Learn about regulated plant pathogens and diseases affecting Tennessee's green industry.
- Shadow inspectors during sample collection of suspect plant tissue and observe TDA Plant Pathologist during laboratory sample analysis.
- Assist TDA Plant Pathologist with sample preparation and analysis using techniques such as microscopy, serological assays, and molecular diagnostic methods to identify fungal, bacterial, viral, and nematode pathogens affecting plant health.

Other duties and special projects may be assigned based on needs and interests.

Education Requirements:

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

Essential Knowledge and Required Skills:

- Candidates must have a valid driver's license.
- Ideal candidates should have an interest in state regulation and public safety.
- Ideal candidates must have the ability to work independently.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office is required.
- Ideal candidates must be comfortable making and accepting phone calls.
- General knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry is preferred but not required.

Comments:

- This is a paid internship.
- Some travel may be required.
- This internship is part of the TDA's central internship program. In addition to regular project work, interns may be expected to participate in internship-specific events and activities that support learning, professional development, department outreach, and program engagement.
- All participants in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Internship Program are required to complete an improvement project within their assigned division. Interns will identify an opportunity for growth, develop a project outline, and explain the project's intended outcomes and contributions to the Department. At the conclusion of the internship term, participants will present their projects to Executive Leadership during a luncheon.
- For more information on the Consumer and Industry Services Division please visit [Consumer and Industry Services - Departmental Summary - Department of Agriculture - TN.gov](#).

Working Conditions:

- This internship will primarily occur in person at various locations, including office, laboratory, and field settings.



How to Apply:

To apply for this internship opportunity, please send the following documents to

Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov :

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

PLEASE NOTE: Once your application has been received, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please reach out to Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026.

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.