

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Produce Safety 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 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, including how many farms grow fresh produce, where they are located, what they grow, and how the department can effectively connect with growers across the state. The internship offers hands-on experience in agriculture, data collection, farmer outreach, and state government programs.

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 based on program needs and the intern's interests.

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.
- 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. 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 food safety activities conducted by CIS please visit:
<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/consumers/food-safety.html>.

Working Conditions:

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



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 an 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.