## Feathered Pen - February 28, 2024

## **RECAP OF 2023 INTERNSHIPS**

Scholarships for the 2024 COE have been offered and students are starting to accept internships to complete their summer COE experience. Internships, provided by MPC's member companies, are one of the most valuable components of the COE experience. Every student who attends COE on a full scholarship will complete a summer internship with one of our member companies at the conclusion of the COE classes.

Last year, 25 internships were provided by MPC sponsor companies. After leaving the Iowa State University campus, students headed to Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin to complete their internships.

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COE interns are paid by the host company. Hourly pay rates for 2023 COE internships ranged from \$15-22/hr, with the median being \$18/hr. Housing is also provided by the host company, if needed by the student. Housing was provided by the host company for 76% of the COE internships in 2023 and providing a hotel stay, company house, or rental accommodation were all equally used top methods of providing housing, followed by providing a housing stipend. Internships run 6-10 weeks long and start after COE classes end on June 21. Pay, housing, projects, and internship structure are determined by the host company.

A big 'thank you' goes to the 17 MPC sponsor companies which hosted a 2023 COE intern: Cobb Vantress, Cooper Farms, Daybreak Foods, Fremont Farms of Iowa, Hy-Line North America, Jennie-O, MacFarlane Pheasants, Miller Poultry, Ohio Poultry Association, Perdue Farms, Pilgrim's, Rose Acre Farms, Sietsema Farms, Select Genetics, Sparboe, Versova, and West Liberty Foods.

If you are interested in hosting an intern this summer, please contact Chelsea Russell at <a href="mpc@mwpoultry.org">mpc@mwpoultry.org</a> for further details. With your help, we hope to continue to offer great, hands-on work experience for our 2024 COE students. Live production-based internships are the most common for COE students. Opportunities for students to work on projects related to poultry nutrition and health are always sought.