

HOW COE GUIDED PAIGE WILLIAMS TO THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

Paige Williams was a student at the University of Missouri when she learned about the COE program. She took COE classes in 2021 and 2022.

“I wasn’t planning on being in the poultry industry before COE,” Paige said, “I always had an interest in poultry, but I didn’t realize the job opportunities that would be available.” During her first summer of COE, Paige was placed in an internship with Rose Acre Farms. “I primarily worked with the production team and my main duties were in farm management. I also got to do shadows with the Director of Production, Dave Hasemann (COE 1996) and Dr. Mark Mouw with Wilson Veterinary Company. The internship gave me a good feel for the layer industry.”

After getting a taste for the live production management side of the poultry industry, Paige returned to COE in 2022 to complete the classes and was matched with Aviagen. She worked in the Veterinary Department and shadowed the company veterinarians, monitoring team, and in the diagnostic lab. “Lisa Tenny (COE 2015) was diligent in putting together my second-year internship and it gave me a terrific representation of the breeder industry. While I learned a lot about veterinary medicine, I also worked with multiple departments and got a wide variety of new experiences.” Paige feels completing two different types of internships during COE helped her define her interests; she was drawn to areas of live production management.



*Paige Williams
Assistant Production Manager*

After graduating Paige accepted a management trainee position with Rose Acre Farms which she held for just under a year before being promoted to Assistant Production Manager in Francesville, IN. “The combination of COE, the internships, and the trainee position allowed me to build a strong foundation for my future in management,” she said.

“I think of myself as a regular farmer who oversees 2.3 million layer hens and over 60 employees,” Paige said. She works with her team to ensure that the layer hens are well cared for and meet the production goals. In her day-to-day work she collects and checks data involved in tracking the performance of the birds, people, and farm. “Those areas include feed, light, air, water, safety, and biosecurity, all of which are taught at COE,” she said. She also ensures paperwork is correct and up to date for any audits and inspections. She walks through the flocks to monitor the barns and make improvements as needed. “I can get several miles in on any given day just by walking through the different barns, but the most important part of my job is communicating – both with my employees and my supervisors.” Through the daily connections she has with the team at Rose Acre Farms, she found it is the people that she enjoys most about her job.

Paige uses components from all the COE classes daily and feels having that background knowledge makes her a valuable team member. She now works with other COE graduates at Rose Acre Farms, people she first met as a student, including Dave Hasemann (COE 1996), Manny Benitez (COE 2008/2009), and Ryan Simmermeyer (COE 2014/2015).

Paige is living in Monticello, IN, and when she is not tending to her 2.3 million chickens, she enjoys doing interior house painting in her community.