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Summer 2023

Vita Plus Dairy Nutrition Youngstock Technical Internship

Objective:

To provide the student with practical experience in evaluating cutting-edge nursery calf programs in conventional and automated calf feeding systems. Key metrics will include calf growth, calf health, nutrient digestibility, and environmental measures, such as temperature, humidity, and air ammonia concentration. Research will explore various starter and milk replacer formulations.

Experience includes:

- Job shadows and collaboration in a team environment
- Opportunities to participate in team and customer meetings and network with industry contacts
- Interaction with producers raising calves in a variety of systems
- Research on dairy youngstock products and product development

Intern project(s):

The project(s), developed with the Vita Plus calf team, will require the ability to both collaborate and work independently to achieve the objectives. The intern will work with other team members to complete research projects, assemble and analyze data, and present the findings to the Vita Plus team and collaborating dairy producers.

Past project examples:

- **Product development and calf performance research:** Oversaw controlled research study on calf starter protein concentration and amino acids, oversaw field study of supplementing fiber in calf starter grain, and collaboratively analyzed calf growth data sets.
- **Development of a dairy cattle maternity audit:** Assisted in the design of a maternity audit, including farm visits, audit design and key finding reports
- **Drinking water study:** Developed a water quality and availability study, farm visits to conduct survey, sampling and report development along with key finding reports
- **Transition calf growth study:** Studied impacts of youngstock nutrition and management programs on calf growth during weaning and transition period, including farm visits, data collection and rate of gain calculations across all herds in study

Location, travel and compensation:

This position will be based in Madison, Wisconsin. Most of the travel will be within the Vita Plus Midwest market area. This may include some overnight travel. All travel expenses will be reimbursed. Compensation is \$15.50 per hour.

Application deadline: December 1, 2022

To apply, email resume and cover letter to Dr. Noah Litherland, Vita Plus dairy technical services specialist, at nlitherland@vitaplus.com.

Questions:

Contact Dr. Noah Litherland at 608.354.5131 or nlitherland@vitaplus.com.

Vita Plus Corporation, an employee-owned company, serves dairy and livestock producers throughout the Midwest. Founded in 1948, the company is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. In addition to quality feed manufacturing, Vita Plus consultants offer the latest cutting-edge nutrition, technology and management expertise. For more information about the organization, call 800.362.8334 or go online at www.vitaplus.com.