



Governmental Relations Internship

Virginia Farm Bureau is organized as a Federation. This structure means that when a farmer member joins a county Farm Bureau then they are a member of Virginia Farm Bureau as well as American Farm Bureau. There are 88 county Farm Bureaus. The strength of the organization is its grassroots activities. Virginia Farm Bureau Federation staff's primary responsibility is to serve volunteer leaders.

The Governmental Relations Department's primary responsibility is working with farmer members on researching, developing or pulling background information on local, state and national issues to help them formulate ideas for issues the county Farm Bureau would like Virginia Farm Bureau to take a position on. In addition, we attend appropriate legislative and regulatory meetings and study committees to represent our members' adopted policy positions. We work with the volunteer leaders participating in our political action committee in coordinating interviews with candidates running for public office and develop background information on the candidates' positions and/or voting records.

This internship is designed for someone who is working toward completing their undergraduate or graduate degree in political science or agriculture economics or other related agriculture degree and is looking on gaining work experience as a governmental relations professional. The duration of the internship would at a minimum be through August 16, 2019, with a mutually agreed upon start and ending date.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation AgPAC - (Spend 70% of time)

- Primary project will be assisting with the coordination of Virginia AgPAC (political action committee) activities, including:
 - Working with District Field Services Directors on logistics of setting up Local Evaluation Committee Meetings (interviews between members and candidates running for office);
 - Following up with candidates with written and verbal reminders regarding interviews;
 - Coordinating the follow-up to questions or requests for information from candidates;
 - Assembling custom interview packets for volunteer leaders; and
 - If needed, attend local interviews to facilitate participation by volunteer leaders.

Grassroots Advocacy - (Spend 20% of time)

- The intern will assist in the gathering of real-world stories from our farmer members to share with legislators as well as the general public for use on social media. This includes taking photos and videos.
- The intern will also assist in creating tools to engage farmer members in grassroots advocacy activities.

Governmental Relations Issue Involvement - (Spend 10% of time)

- In general, the intern will be required to perform some duties including clerical, to synthesize and summarize information, and to observe a broad array of issues that our organization represents from national issues to tax issues to land issues to commodity issues.
- The intern will be assigned specific internal or external issues to research and compose discussion material for volunteer members.
- The intern may be assigned to attend internal and external meetings on behalf of the organization. Their responsibility will be specifically outlined by the Vice President of Governmental Relations prior to attending the meeting. This responsibility could include summarizing and analyzing the information presented to be utilized in developing a response from the organization, monitoring the progress of Farm Bureau-related policies, or determining the next steps of involvement of the organization in that issue. The topics may include environmental issues, commodity issues, budget-related issues, General Assembly or state agency study committees.

To apply, submit cover letter and resume to our [careers page here](#).

(Cover letters may be addressed to Victoria Johnson, Human Resources).