



Undergraduate Internship(s) in Hydroponic Growing in a High Tech Environment

Location: Texas (Marfa, Fort Davis, & Monahans)

Period: Summer 2016 (40 hours/week, paid)

About Village Farms:

Village Farms is one of the largest producers of premium quality greenhouse tomatoes, bell peppers and cucumbers in North America. Village Farms vegetables are grown hydroponically (without the use of soil) in a glass enclosed high technology environment using sophisticated computer systems to control irrigation, fertilizers, carbon dioxide, light, temperature, ventilation, humidity and other climatic factors. Village Farms' greenhouse vegetables are produced by plants that have been selected for their taste, quality and other characteristics and are not genetically modified.

The Company operates an industry leading sales, distribution and marketing organization. In particular, the Company's strategy focuses on forging strong customer relationships by servicing retailers on a year-round basis, and maintaining the highest standards of food safety. Village Farms owns and operates seven greenhouse facilities in British Columbia and Texas. These regions support a vibrant greenhouse industry due to their superior growing conditions, in terms of light and temperature, when compared to other regions of North America. In addition, Village Farms markets, provides technical support, and logistics services for over 200 acres of greenhouse production throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico.

Internship Schedule 2016

Start in Marfa/Fort Davis

Wk 1: Crop Husbandry Tomatoes

- Clip and Shoot
- Truss Prune
- Deleafing
- Lowering
- Harvesting

Be instructed on each job, focusing on the necessity of a quality job, understanding why we handle the plants in a certain way, and the effect on the crop.

Week 2: Irrigation and fertilization

- Learn the irrigation controls
- Monitor buckets in the greenhouse.

- Learn about % drain
- Aims for EC and PH
- Look at current analysis for drain and drip samples
- Learn about feed mixing and recipe changes
- Collect and send water samples

Week 3: Climate Control

- Educate what our climate aims are in certain times of year
- Show how we achieve our aims with the controls we have
- Ventilation
- Heating Pipe Temps
- Humidity Control
- Temperature patterns

Data retrieval should be encouraged by looking through the environmental computer. Looking at light levels, outside temperatures, etc. in relation to what we achieve. Graphical presentation

Week 4: Reading the Crop Requirements and Crop Registration

- Assist in crop registration and recording of data
- Evaluate data and look at comparisons
- Evaluate the crop and how it responds to the climatical conditions
- How do we determine how to grow vegative or generative? And, how do we achieve these?
- A special project to look at differences between crops

Week 5: Packing Operation

- Learn how we pack various commodities
- Look at quality control measures
- Customer specs
- Shipping
- Rejections

Week 6: Food Safety, Employee Safety, & Human Resources role in Village Farms

- Employee safety program
- Gap program
- Audits
- Cost associated to safety
- HR documentation
- Legal requirements
- Hiring policy, Corrective actions, Legal side of the business

[Move to Monahans](#)

Week 7: Pest and Disease Control; Diego Camacho

- Scouting
- Bee husbandry
- Beneficial insects

- Chemical Control
- Life cycle of pests
- Disease pressures
- Preventative control
- Legal aspect of using Chemicals

Week 8: Labor Management; Miguel Puebla

- How our labor is structured
- Work organization
- Effective supervision
- Employee management
- Piece rate system
- Productive labor tracking
- Motivating staff
- Costs

Wk 9: Cuke crop husbandry and Packing; Miguel Puebla and Randy Hetherington.

- Be instructed on the various jobs with the Cucumber crop
- Assist with packing; looking at the various grades we need
- Be instructed on how a Packhouse operation runs in relation to crop production. Customer requirements and sales needs. Looking at interactions between the various departments to achieve the best results.

Week 10: Forecasting and Accounts; Tim Robinson

- Be instructed on the need for accurate forecasting and the effects if we get it wrong.
- Assist with forecasting, looking at daily and weekly needs. Looking at the crop and crop registration.
- Be shown a sites balance sheet to better understand the metrics of our business.

Week 11: Reflection

- Be given the opportunity to look further into various tasks and operations that the Intern would like to know more about.
- Meeting and evaluation of the program.

Notes:

On Friday of each week, time will be set aside for a discussion with Management on what has been learned and to allow the Interns an opportunity to discuss their observations and thoughts on what they have learned during that week.

The Interns will be issued a journal from the company to record daily activities and to record what they found positive and what they would change. This will be used at the end of the Internship to evaluate the program and the effectiveness in coordination with the Interns expectations. Village Farms will also require a paper to be written by each intern to give an overall opinion of their experience with the company over the summer.

Contact:

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