Send completed application with letters of recommendation to:

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Dairy Outreach Coordinator
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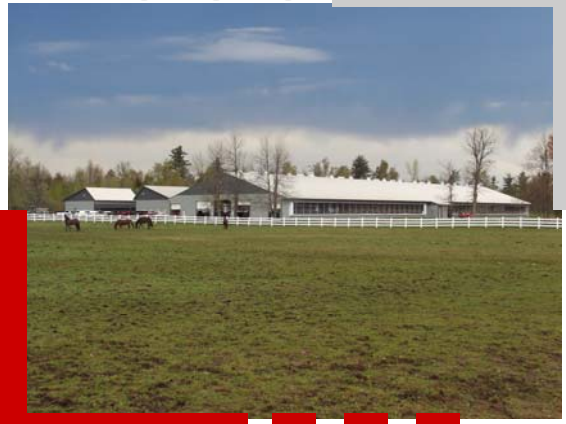
APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 1, 2010



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THE WILLIAM H. MINER AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Summer Experience in Farm Management

MINER INSTITUTE
RESEARCH EDUCATION
CHAZY, NY
HEART'S DELIGHT FARM

MAY 17—AUGUST 13, 2010

About Miner

The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute is located in Chazy, New York, about 40 miles south of Montreal in the Champlain Valley. For more than a quarter century, Miner Institute has conducted programs in education and research, foremost of which are in-residence undergraduate programs in agriculture and environmental science. The Summer Experience in Farm Management offers credits through a combination of workshops and independent study. Modern facilities enable students to combine the commercial farm experience with applied management research.

In 2007, 11 students from 11 different universities were enrolled in the Summer Experience programs, which include an Equine Management program and an Agricultural Research internship.

The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute consists of 8,600 acres of land, mostly densely wooded areas with limited accessibility. The 660 acres of cropland and improved pasture includes 200 acres of corn and 160 acres of alfalfa. A dairy facility, newly constructed in 2008, houses 300 registered Holstein cows in an automated free stall barn and 16-stall tie-stall barn used for conducting research trials. Miner Institute breeds, trains and shows a herd of approximately 25 Morgan horses.

About the Program

Work experience for Farm Management students includes milking, herd health, calves, and a variety of field work activities such as tillage, planting, and harvest. The students fit and show a string of dairy cattle at the local county fair. The Summer Experience in Farm Management introduces students to the modern farm as a business, which has as its objective the conversion of plants into milk and meat.

All students will be asked to work long hours on occasion, but no more so than would normally be expected on a dairy farm. Students work approximately every other weekend.

Weekly meetings update the students about farm activities; a combination of dairy, crops and equine. Extended sessions on relevant topics such as nutrition, reproduction, mastitis management, animal health, and field crops will be held throughout the summer. Instructors include Miner Institute faculty members Katie Ballard, Kurt Cotanch, Heather Dann, Wanda Emerich, Rick Grant, Karen Lassell, and graduate students. The small class size makes it possible to at least partially tailor the program to meet the needs of each student. Students interested in careers in veterinary medicine, farm management, vocational agriculture and agricultural extension have found this program to be particularly useful.

Students will have the opportunity to enroll in an Artificial Insemination certification course offered in cooperation with personnel from a bull stud. This optional course will be offered at a minimal cost per student and this may be handled as a payroll deduction throughout the summer.

Each student also becomes involved in an independent study project analyzing an aspect of Miner Institute's farm management, such as reproduction, nutrition, nutrient management, herd health, and calf management. Each student will work with a faculty member to plan, organize, and summarize the project. At the end of the summer oral and written reports are presented. In past years, projects have dealt with forage quality, dairy records analysis, reproductive management, animal behavior, and manure additives for odor control.

Enrollment, Credits, and Compensation

This program is available to agriculture and life science students in their junior or senior years of study. Students are encouraged to register for college credit at their home institution. Students are responsible for making arrangements for credits. This program is designed as a 4-credit course, although other arrangements may be made through the student's home institution.

Each student's wage for the 13-week semester is $3,000. The students live at Miner Institute where dormitory housing, and breakfast and lunch each weekday are provided at a cost of $300 total for the summer session.

This program begins on Monday, May 17, 2010 and ends on Friday, August 13, 2010. Adjustments can be made for students whose classes have not ended by May 17th. Applicants should provide the following:

- completed Summer Experience application
- copy of college transcript
- two letters of recommendation, one must be from college advisor
- letter outlining career goals and reasons for application

Please include any experience with field crop or livestock production.

Miner Institute provides equal employment opportunities.