

Ohio Dairy Vets Proposed Extern Program

First Draft

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This plan had input from Drs. Anders, DeBruin, Edwards, Finney, Gingrich, Hardesty, Sanders, Shaver, Spreng, Wenger, Dick Wiley, and Doug Wiley. Thanks to all of you and others I may have forgotten, this would not have happened without your input.

Goal – The goal of the proposed extern program is two-fold. One, we would like to offer a positive experience in a rural practice to students considering that as a career option. Second, we would like to advance the skills of students planning to join the veterinary profession.

Remuneration – Most practices would not offer a wage for the externs time spent in the truck. The reality is as the intern is presented with opportunities to learn, the practitioner loses a little efficiency. Realizing students frequently are in a financial position that necessitates them generating some income during the summer here are several possibilities:

1. Many clinics would pay the students for jobs they do around the clinic after hours.
2. The AABP offers a limited number of “scholarships” to students to do internships.
3. Could we get some backing from the legislature to set up a funding program in Ohio to support this?
4. We could we get some money from some drug companies to set up a funding program in Ohio to support this. Monsanto has contributed.

Insurance –

1. Liability – If you have AVMA liability insurance, they offer an inexpensive policy to cover students. Some other private insurers will also cover; this should be explored on a case-by-case basis. It is my understanding OSU does not have liability insurance to cover students while they are not enrolled in school.
2. Health – The student’s health insurance should still be in effect.

Housing and Food – Some practitioners offer room and board of some form or another. Being able to offer this, or at least facilitate this, would go a long way toward getting students in practices. It would be good to identify options for these students before they applied for the position, places like ATI in Wooster may give a lot of practices accessible housing.

Length of Externship – Many people responded 2-4 weeks, this would obviously be up to the individual practices and students to finalize.

Application Process – Most of you felt the process should be very informal, and conducted one on one between the student and the practitioner.