



Southern Piedmont Agriculture and Research Extension
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Tobacco Agronomy Summer Internship
Southern Piedmont AREC
Blackstone, VA

Job description:

Undergraduate research assistant positions are available in the Tobacco Agronomy Program of Dr. David Reed, Southern Piedmont AREC (Blackstone, Virginia), College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, in Summer 2025 to assist industry and commodity board-funded research focusing on the profitable production of flue-cured tobacco and reducing the environmental impact associated with tobacco production.

The selected candidates will work primarily at the research station but will also travel to tobacco farms in the region to work with on-farm research projects and assist with Extension education activities.

Job responsibilities will vary but may include the following:

- Sampling and data collection for tobacco greenhouse transplant production research
- Data collection for tobacco seed performance and quantification of seedling vigor (image analysis)
- Assisting with treatment applications for traditional tobacco agronomic research areas such as fertilization, topping, and sucker control
- Assisting with field experiments investigating yield limiting factors associated with tobacco and investigating potential bio-stimulant products intended to reduce plant stress
- Installation and analysis of data from innovative soil sensor technology measuring soil moisture, temperature, and ion content within the crop rooting zone and the overall soil profile
- Assisting with data collection and analysis from UAS cameras and sensors
- Assisting with treatment application using an ag spray drone system
- Communicating the results of experiments to peers, supervisors, and the scientific community
- General research and plot maintenance activities in the field and greenhouse

Work Schedule: M-F 7:30-4:30 May 19,2025 – August 8,2025

Apply at: <https://app.joinhandshake.com/emp/jobs/9670251/details>

or send cover letter and CV/resume to threed@vt.edu