The Dixon Springs Summer Internship Program started in Summer 2008 with five student interns from NRES and the Animal Science Department under the sponsorship of the College of ACES Office of Research (OR) in conjunction with its Office of Academic Affairs. One year later, the number of available internships increased from five to eight. This year, the eight DSAC Internships are sponsored entirely by the OR and include students from the Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) and from the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Departments.

The Internship gives ACES undergraduate students the opportunity to gain hands-on, experiential learning by working closely with UIUC faculty and DSAC mentors. The students are exposed to all stages of research, from experimental design and layout to data collection, analysis and reporting. They gain practical experience from working with campus and DSAC-based researchers.

Each student is assigned a faculty mentor and DSAC advisor and has developed a research project during spring 2010 to be tested at DSAC. The students will present three seminars explaining their research, including the hypothesis, objectives, experimental design, protocol, budget and requirements. At the end of the internship, each student intern will write a report and give a presentation on his/her research.
In addition to scientific endeavors, each intern will have a chance to learn about the Southern Illinois region, the problems and opportunities faced by farmers, producers and landowners in the area, as well as participate in farm visits or tours of local operations in conjunction with Center personnel, Extension specialists or agribusinesses.
Illinois Forest Resource Center

There are approximately 4,525,000 acres of forest land in the state of Illinois. 293,000 acres are in the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois where Dixon Springs Agricultural Center is located.

Along with providing education opportunities in animal and crop sciences, it offers seminars, classes and programs in forestry. The Forest Resource Center is located at DSAC under the direction of Jim Kirkland. This center provides forest-specific programs for educators, students, professional and the general public.

Anita Lucius, Senior in Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) is one of this year’s Summer Interns.

She has an interest in food chemistry with an emphasis on creating low glycemic index foods suitable for individuals with diabetes.

Under the direction of FSHN Faculty member Dr. Susan Brewer; and DSAC staff Bronwyn Aly & Jeff Kindhart, Anita will analyze the different blueberry genotypes at DSAC and develop a new product to benefit patients with Type 2 diabetes.

Tessa Meyer, also a Senior in Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN), is working under the direction of Jeff Kindhart & Bronwyn Aly and Dr. Bradley Beam.

She has previously conducted research on berries and their antioxidant capacities. This research is continuing at DSAC on Ellagic acid and the antioxidant content of berry-based wines.

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center
Rt. 1, Box 256. Simpson, IL 62985
Phone: (618) 695-2466
http://research.aces.illinois.edu/centers/dixon_springs
Dixon Springs Agricultural Center is one of seven field research and education centers operated by the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois
Whitney Hill is a junior in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES). She is working under the direction of Jennifer Fraterrigo and DSAC staff member Jim Kirkland.

Whitney's research project involves extensive field work around DSAC and in the Shawnee National Forest surrounding Dixon Springs. Her research project is titled *Effect of Recreational trail use on the Spread of Non-Native Plant Species*. It will be interesting to see the results of this study and its effect on trail future trail usage.

Tim Ward is currently a senior in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) with a major in Forestry and Plant Genetics. Jay Hayek is his faculty advisor and Jim Kirkland is his DSAC advisor. Tim’s research project is titled *Evaluation of BAF Prism Size and Tree Measurement Techniques in the Estimation of Stand-Level Population parameters in the Central hardwood Region of Southern Illinois*. Tim is measuring a sweet gum tree for his nomination as the State Sweet Gum Champion.

Whitney and Tim doing field work at the Bald-Cypress Swamp located in the Shawnee National Forest. They are looking at the factors that effect Bald-Cypress tree buttressing.
Emily Carson is a recent graduate of the Animal Sciences Department. She grew up on a beef farm and has previously worked on various farms, competed on judging teams at the U of I and conducted research in livestock feed. The title of Adams’ research project is *Comparing Pregnancy Rates in Beef Cows Using Five vs. Seven Day CO-Synch + CIDR Protocol*.

Eric Schuler is a senior in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. He has a strong agricultural background and previously worked on campus in the Soil Fertility Laboratory. He is interested in technical systems management with an emphasis on production. The title of his research project at DSAC is *Determining the Significance between Real-Time Soil Sensing of Electrical conductivity and Compression*.

Adam Schroeder is a senior in the Department of Animal Sciences. He was raised on a family farm and has previously worked on various farms, competed on judging teams at the U of I and conducted research in livestock feed. The title of his research project is *Short and Long Term Effects of Supplementation of Modified Distillers Grain on Cow and Calf Performance*.

Kyle Vogelzang is a senior in Animal Sciences. He has experience in raising livestock and operating heavy machinery from time spent on his family farm. At DSAC, Kyle is researching the *Effects of Ivomec on Fescue Toxicity*. 