N.C. Cooperative Extension
NC State University
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Lee County Extension Intern

Location: Lee County
Program Area: Agriculture and Natural Resources
Immediate/Site Supervisor: Amanda Bratcher, Horticulture Agent
Other Mentors and Supervisors: Bill Stone, County Extension Director

Position Description/Responsibilities:

The Consumer Horticulture intern will focus on two major strategic priorities: (1) **Pollinator Haven Garden Outreach Expansion:** Developing durable, interactive educational and outreach materials (QR code self-guided tours, plant profiles, signage, and diagnostic guides) to elevate the garden into a regional demonstration hub; (2) C**ommunity Outreach & Direct Engagement:** Staffing and enhancing high-visibility outreach tables with the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Lee County at the Sanford Farmers' Market, FirstHealth wellness events, local nurseries, and community garden tours. Key responsibilities include:

Pollinator Haven Garden Outreach & Educational Infrastructure (40%): Create digital and physical educational tools (QR-code-linked webpage resources, print brochures, and plant identification markers) featuring bloom times, native plant benefits, and pollinator relationships for adults and children; Design seasonal "What's in Bloom" educational displays and interactive scavenger hunts for youth and family visitors; and Assist with routine garden maintenance and prepare demonstration plots for monthly public tours and workdays.

Summer Public Outreach & Event Support (35%): Co-lead and staff mobile outreach educational tables at the Sanford Farmers' Market, FirstHealth wellness clinics, and local partner nurseries; Assemble turnkey, hands-on educational activities (e.g., insect identification games, seed-saving demonstrations, and plant diagnostic tools) for public booth visitors; and Assist with mid-summer seed collecting, processing, and educational materials for the Lee County Seed Library Network.

Great Southeast Pollinator Census (GSEPC) Mobilization (15%): Support local community outreach leading up to the August Census, including sharing materials with school garden contacts, 4-H leaders, and civic groups; and Help distribute and demonstrate the new NC Insect Identification Guide at public workshops and help desk clinics.

Consumer Help Desk & Volunteer Engagement (10%): Triage consumer lawn, garden, and insect identification inquiries at the Extension office under agent supervision, and Work directly with Extension Master Gardener Volunteers on public education projects and demonstration garden workdays.

Preferred Qualifications:

Benefits for the Intern: Gain practical experience in public horticulture, non-formal adult and youth education, and Cooperative Extension operations; Master translating scientific research into accessible, consumer-friendly outreach materials, and Develop project management, public presentation, and volunteer leadership skills working alongside Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

Additional Information

Anticipated Deliverables & Impacts: (1) A standardized, durable set of printable educational flyers, materials, tools, and digital QR-code landing pages; (2) Tracking total public interactions, consumer questions answered, and educational materials distributed across summer markets and events; (3) Three reusable, topic-specific outreach kits (e.g., "Pollinator Gardening," "Soil Health & Composting," and "Pest Management Basics") for future agent and volunteer use; and (4) A brief presentation to the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and presentation at the Extension poster session summarizing key accomplishments and deliverables.

Resource Requirements & Supervision: (1) Daily mentorship, weekly check-ins, and field shadowing provided by Amanda Bratcher; (2) Extension office desk space, computer access, and field diagnostic tools; (3) Local travel within Lee County for market tables, garden sites, and community meetings (vehicle access or mileage reimbursement according to standard policy).

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