Summer 2021 Russell Brinsfield Agro-Ecology Internship Program

The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. and the Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) are seeking law and undergraduate student applicants interested in careers in agriculture, environmental conservation, forestry, and/or policy for the 2021 Russell Brinsfield Agro-Ecology Summer Internship program. Multiple students will be selected for this 10 week internship, which includes a competitive salary and, if feasible, housing located at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown, Maryland. The preference is for the interns to live and work at the Wye Research Center, however, if that is not possible due to COVID-19 related restrictions and/or protocols, the internship will be hosted remotely.

The internship will introduce you to a number of complex natural resource issues, including nutrient management for the Chesapeake Bay, forestry, and local food production. During the course of the internship, you will meet diverse stakeholders and engage in the complex interaction between the agricultural and the environmental conservation and policy communities. You will be introduced to legislators and staff at state agencies as you work to resolve challenges. The internship is funded by organizations seeking to build leaders who are able to appreciate all sides of complex issues and develop solutions that consider the needs of industry, environment, economic, and policymakers.

Interns will:
- Participate in the multidisciplinary activities of the Hughes Center
- Attend regional leadership meetings for agriculture and natural resources
- Have the opportunity to learn from and support research agronomists at the University of Maryland’s Wye Research Farm
- Support ALEI’s staff in the creation and administration of legal education resources and programs
- Support Hughes Center and ALEI staff in developing proposals for future projects

Interns must:
- Be a licensed driver with their own reliable transportation
- Attend Hughes Center events throughout the summer. Some weekend or evening hours may be required

Compensation: Interns will be paid $14.40 an hour for a 40-hour work week.

To Apply: Send your resume, cover letter and at least one academic or professional letter of recommendation.
- Undergraduate students should send their application to Nancy Nunn at nnunn@umd.edu
Law students should send their application to Sarah Everhart at severhart@law.umd.edu

Deadline to Apply: February 5, 2021

About the Hughes Center
Founded in 1999, the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology’s mission is to provide leadership to promote environmentally sound and economically viable agriculture and forestry as Maryland’s preferred land use through research, outreach and collaboration. The Russell Brinsfield Internship Program is named for the Center’s founding executive director, Dr. Russell Brinsfield.

About the Agriculture Law Education Initiative
ALEI provides legal education and resources to Maryland’s farm community to explain agricultural law as it evolves to keep pace with the changing realities of farmers and the agricultural industry in the 21st century. An important part of this education is the network of natural resource protection laws that intersect with agriculture, helping to strengthen both farming and environmental quality.

For more information, including a video presentation of former interns’ work, visit go.umd.edu/brinsfieldinternship

Quotes from past interns:

“So many people understand the impact of their actions on the Bay and how much the Bay is an economic driver for the region. I saw that people on both sides of the aisle really care about creating environmental policy that works.” Hannah Catt, 2017 law intern

“We would have never had an experience like this had it not been for being housed at the Wye Research and Education Center. We were surrounded by so many amazing experts in so many fields, that opened so many doors for us, and we couldn’t be more thankful.” Danielle Naundorf, 2018 undergraduate intern

“The Hughes Center brings different stakeholders to the table to work together and accomplish shared goals. After meeting with policymakers, farmers, lawyers, citizens and environmental advocates, I have come out of this internship with a better appreciation for the effectiveness of bringing people together,” Michael Marinelli, 2019 undergraduate intern

“I connected with the mission of the Hughes Center of using solid research to help farmers make environmentally sound uses of their land that are also economically viable. As someone who came from a science background, I felt that the internship would be a good job for helping me tie together my past experience with my new career,” Liz Johnson, 2020 law intern