

Summer 2025 Record of Internship – Kinley Kellum

Offices: Westmoreland and Richmond Counties

Supervising Agents: Wendy Herdman & Stephanie Romelezyk

Wednesday May 21st - Friday May 23rd

This week was filled with a mix of orientation, fieldwork, and hands-on learning.

On the first day of the internship, an overview was provided regarding expectations and the internship structure. This was followed by participation in two Zoom meetings: one with 4-H and another with Bay Aging, where discussions were led by Jasmine. Thursday featured a Westmoreland County Cookout, offering a mix of community engagement and networking, followed by the Small Grains Field Day, where we learned about small grain crops. We also spent time analyzing data from corn and soybean plots, as well as working with a rain sheet to track rainfall. On Friday, the week wrapped up with a weekly check-in meeting, reflecting on the progress so far and addressing any questions or concerns. Additionally, we assisted in fieldwork alongside a graduate student and assistant from Tidewater AREC, where they focused on examining sweet corn and taking soil samples to test for *Pythium*, a soil-borne pathogen affecting the crop.



Monday May 26th - Saturday May 31st

This week was filled with both learning and community engagement. Monday was a holiday, therefore the office was closed. On Tuesday, I assisted in Bay Aging classes, which included a hands-on "garden in a bag" activity, aimed to teach participants how to grow their own small gardens in a limited space. Wednesday was busy with a 4-H Development Zoom meeting, where ongoing projects were discussed, and an origami plan was worked on to create an outline for 2 presentations for 4-H Congress. Time was also spent reviewing soybean trial data,



examining performance metrics and trends. Thursday was a unique opportunity to explore wheat production during the Farm Bureau Wheat Tour across the Northern Neck, learning from local farms about wheat cultivation and practices. Friday consisted of a weekly check-in to evaluate progress and address any challenges encountered. Finally, Saturday I helped with a 4-H Teen Leader Training in Warsaw, focused on preparing for the upcoming 4-H camp, where teens were trained on leadership skills, camp responsibilities, and activities to ensure a smooth camp experience.

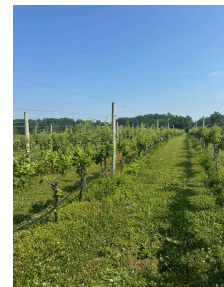


Monday June 2nd - Friday June 6th

The week began with a productive Monday, where you stamped name tags and traced clovers, to prepare for 4-H Camp. Tuesday through Friday were days off.

Monday June 9th - Friday June 13th

The second week of June kicked off with a Safety Zoom session, where a team of us worked together to put a plan together for the upcoming Safety Zone we were hosting in July at the Richmond County Fair. This was followed by planning for other various upcoming activities. On Tuesday, I spent time finalizing name tags, participated in a Zoom with Maisey, and attended the RC Staff Conference. Wednesday consisted of the WC Staff Conference, followed by working on an origami board for presentation at Congress. Thursday was a busy day with a VDACS Investigator visit to Hague Winery, learning about wine production and inspections, and checking corn earworm traps, a key activity in monitoring pest populations. The week wrapped up on Friday with a Grains Zoom meeting, discussing grain crops, their growth, and market trends.



Monday June 16th - Friday June 20th

Family Vacation!

Monday June 23rd - Friday June 27th

The week began with Monday spent on various tasks and preparation for the Westmoreland 2026 calendar. On Tuesday, I assisted with the Healthy Harvest Pressure Canning Program, where we learned about safe and effective canning methods for preserving food. Wednesday was a day off. Thursday was dedicated to CEW Scouting, where I observed and monitored the presence of Corn Earworms in fields, an essential task for pest management in crops. The week concluded with Nursery Visits with the Virginia Tech Nursery Specialist on Friday at Historyland, Ingleside, and Crookhorn, where I had the opportunity to tour the nurseries, learned about their operations, and observed plant production or sales.



Monday June 30th - Friday July 4th

This week was a mix of camp activities, educational programs, and fieldwork. Monday kicked off with the RC Camp Bus Boarding, where I helped organize transportation for campers, followed by participating in a Boys and Girls Club Class where I worked with the Northern Neck Master



Gardeners to make bee houses, teaching kids about the importance of pollinators. Later that afternoon I installed two salinity probes in waterways to help producers measure various conditions within the water they are using for irrigation. On Tuesday, I spent the day preparing for an event, Safety Day, by filling bags with safety information and learning materials. Wednesday I spent the day at Jamestown 4-H Camp, where I was able to lead a class called "Farmtastic". During this time I did two activities, Garden in a Glove where the kids learned about germination and seed lifecycles as well as Ice Cream in

a bag focusing on dairy production and the production cycle. Thursday was a hands-on day where I was able to shadow Megan Williams, the ANR agent in Caroline and King George Counties. With her I was able to see various insights on her CEW scouting and explore the Arboretum and a farm called Gardening Gays, where I gained insights into their operation and gardening practices. The week wrapped up with a holiday on Friday.

Monday July 7th - Friday July 11th

This week was centered around Pizza Camp, a summer program and key intern activities.

Monday began with the Extension ½ Way meeting, we reviewed the progress in my internship, followed by an Intern Zoom session to connect with others and discuss upcoming tasks. On Tuesday, I worked on Pizza Camp Prep, getting everything ready for the hands-on camp



activities. Wednesday was a busy day of Pizza Camp Farm Visits, where we toured local farms to learn about the ingredients that go into making pizza, such as tomatoes, wheat, and other essentials. Thursday focused on Tomato Canning, where we preserved tomatoes, teaching food preservation techniques. The week concluded on Friday with Wheat Grinding and Pizza Making, where the kids learned about milling wheat

into flour and then using it to create homemade pizzas, giving the kids a full-circle learning experience of farm-to-table cooking.

Monday July 14th - Friday July 18th

This week involved preparation for events and hands-on educational activities. On Monday, I participated in the RCC Teachers Lab at Glenns, where we were able to display the 4-H mobile



learning lab to educators with hopes they use it as a resource in their curriculum. Tuesday was focused on Safety Day Prep, where I helped prepare for the

upcoming event, and participated in Maisey's STEMTASTIC Program, which involved teaching kids about STEM concepts through engaging hands-on activities. Wednesday was dedicated to Safety Day Setup, getting everything in place for the event. Thursday involved Calendar Planning, where I mapped out each month to begin requesting materials from various participants, and worked the Progressive Ag Safety Zone at the Richmond County Fair with Mackenzie, another VCE Intern. The week concluded with a focus on organizing and preparing for these community safety initiatives.



Monday July 21st - Friday July 25th

This week was focused on wrapping up safety initiatives, engaging in educational camps, and updating resources. On Monday, I wrapped up and cleaned up after Safety Day, ensuring all materials and spaces were properly organized. Tuesday I helped the Master Gardeners do another camp at the Boys and Girls Club of Westmoreland where we worked on Fairy Garden projects, teaching kids about plant care and creating whimsical garden designs. After the camp program, I returned to the office to prepare the materials for the exchange event. Wednesday featured a Japanese Arrival Event, an exchange event where the host families were connected with the delegates. Thursday was spent updating the 2025 Westmoreland Ag Facts, ensuring the information was current, and creating a Career Board to showcase opportunities in agriculture for local students. Finally, Friday included CEW Scouting and working to finalize the 2026 Westmoreland calendar.



Monday July 28th - Friday August 1st

This week focused on final preparations and execution for the Water Wizards Camp, along with some important administrative work. On Monday, I spent the day making calendar edits for the 2026 Westmoreland calendar. Tuesday was all about Water Wizards preparation, where I organized materials and planned activities for the upcoming camp. We also went out to check the salinity sensors that we installed and got them up to date. Wednesday we visited George Washington's Birthplace for a Water Wizards Camp day, where campers learned about water ecosystems and historical topics tied to the area. Thursday, the camp continued at Westmoreland State Park, where we explored more outdoor activities, focusing on water-based learning in nature. Finally, Friday wrapped up the camp with a fun Fishing Boat Day, where campers got a chance to experience hands-on fishing and learn about aquatic life.



Monday August 4th

The last day of my internship focused on wrapping up the long term projects I had over the summer. We also had one final Intern Zoom for all of the 2025 VCE Summer interns to wrap up everything that was accomplished during their time spent this summer.

Advice to anyone looking to do an internship

100% do it. Any internship is good to gain experience outside of the classroom. My internship this summer focused on a variety of activities. No day was ever the same and I got to experience many different things that I had never seen or done before. If there is something you want to get out and see - ASK!, the agents may not have the direct connection, they will be sure to find someone who can help you experience whatever you wish to learn about. I would highly

recommend anyone to complete this summer internship with Virginia Cooperative Extension, I had a blast and learned so much along the way.