

Kidding Season Intern (Feb-Late April)

Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery

Overview

Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery is seeking an **unpaid Kidding Season Intern** for an immersive, hands-on role during our busiest and most exciting time of year. This differs from our Kidding Season volunteer opportunities in that this internship includes structured learning opportunities and direct mentorship as you help care for newborn kids and support the herd team through kidding season on a pasture-based, regenerative farm.

Term & Time Commitment

- **Season:** Kidding season
- **Dates:** Late February through mid-May
- **Weekly commitment:** 16-20 hours per week (schedule coordinated with the farm team; early mornings, weekends and some holiday availability required)

Key Responsibilities

Kidding & Newborn Care

- Provide the Herd Manager and Dairy team with assistance during kidding and learn how to recognize normal vs. concerning labor patterns (training provided)
- Provide newborn care: drying, warming, clearing airways, and bottle feeding colostrum
- Assist with colostrum collection and learn about postpartum doe care
- Help with kid check-in and processing; give vaccinations, weigh, tag, clip umbilical and take detailed records (With training and under direct supervision)
- Maintain clean, organized nursery spaces, inventory and restock supplies (kidding kits, bottles, bedding, gloves, towels)

Nursery Management & Daily Operations

- Support daily nursery routines: health checks, feeding, recordkeeping, and pen maintenance
- Learn and follow biosecurity practices to protect vulnerable newborns
- Assist with basic facility upkeep for nursery and kid barns: clean and refill waterers, refresh bedding and hay, keep visitor areas clean and clear

Learning, Data & Herd Health Support

- Participate in structured learning sessions on newborn care, nutrition, and disease prevention
- Collect and maintain accurate data logs (birth records, postpartum doe care, health checks, treatments, regular kid weighing)
- Observe and communicate early signs of illness and support disease management protocols (Coccidiosis, Pneumonia, Intestinal parasites, Polio- prevention, identification and course of treatment)
- Learn how nutrition and management decisions impact kid health outcomes and growth patterns

What You'll Learn

- Newborn kid care from day one: best practices that support survival, growth, and thriving starts
- The practical “why” behind protocols: nutrition, immunity, sanitation, and disease prevention
- How to efficiently manage a neonatal care system that minimizes mortality, prevents disease and sets the next generation up for success
- Data collection skills used in real livestock operations: consistency, accuracy, and decision support
- How pasture-based, regenerative management connects to herd health and seasonal cycles

Ideal Candidate

- Interested in livestock systems, veterinary/animal science, dairy production, or regenerative agriculture

- Able to stay calm, focused, and gentle in high-energy, fast-changing situations
- Strong attention to detail for sanitation, feeding protocols, and recordkeeping
- Comfortable with physically active work (standing, bending, carrying supplies) and working around animals
- Reliable and punctual with a team-first mindset and curiosity for learning

How to Apply

Please send:

- A short letter about why you're interested in kidding season and what you hope to learn from our goat industry experts (please include any relevant animal care, farm, or coursework experience)
- A resume

Location: Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery, Champaign IL

Contact: Rose Rutzen, rose@prairiefruitsfarm.com