

Farming Internship

Employer: Yucatan Farm Company
Position: Bi-lingual Agronomist
Location: Yucatan, Mexico
When: June 15-August 15, 2014
Contact: David Roberts, david.c.roberts@ndsu.edu, 701-231-9796

Position: Work as Assistant to Lead Farmer who is not bi-lingual, communicating his instructions to local lead agronomist/farmer and farm employees in Spanish as they prepare land and subsequently plant roughly 400 hectares of soybeans in a time-sensitive planting window. This will be the first crop of an initiative that plans to farm at least 2,000 hectares of private land and potentially much more land if successful.

Accountabilities and responsibilities: Understand Lead Farmers instructions and translate clearly and in real-time to respective American and Mexican farmers on-site to support the planting of the crop. Planting window is July 15-August 15 and the month prior will be dedicated to planning and training for local staff on new large scale equipment. Equipment and its use will be new to all local employees, which will require excellent communication that depends heavily on this position for success.

Job Qualifications: Fully bi-lingual in Spanish, an understanding agronomic principles and terms for commercial scale row crops (corn and soybeans). Practical experience is helpful, but not required.

Intangibles: Ideal candidate is comfortable in an unfamiliar and remote rural setting; has natural curiosity to learn; a positive and resilient outlook; able to deal with an ambiguous and fluid operating environment; able to interact within a broad age and experience demographic; adapt, take instruction; embrace failure as a positive learning event; all with a "can do" mindset.

The internship offers an unusually rich hands-on learning opportunity that includes:

- potential return invite to participate in the crop harvest event
- 24/7 use of bi-lingual (mostly verbal) communication skills.
- commercial row crop planting challenges and solutions
- direct exposure to the rural Mexican culture and landscape
- on the job training, working at the side of a native North Dakota farmer with 40 years of soybean and corn farming expertise.
- experience with the full crop planting cycle
- have a great deal of fun while learning

Remuneration: Position will receive round trip travel to the Yucatan, housing with the North Dakota farmer and his wife, travel to and from the farm, payment of educational credit fees, and a weekly stipend.