When I started my internship at the Rice Research Station at the beginning of May, the work was very slow paced due to the constant rainfall causing me to spend more time in the lab than the field. However, during this time I began to weigh soil samples that were taken from the test plots on station. Once a week for five weeks, I assisted the research associates, research assistants, and professors taking soil samples from rice variety x nitrogen trials. I would then take 5 grams of the soil and put it in a small jar then add 20 milliliters of Potassium Chloride to the soil and mix for an hour. Once mixed, I would pour the mixture into a funnel with a filter paper to strain the soil from the liquid. Unfortunately, my internship was ended two weeks short due to me having to quarantine from covid, I was unable to use the equipment that shows how much nitrogen was left in the liquid that was removed from the soil. This internship gave me the opportunity to travel throughout the state including West Monroe, St. Joseph, Palmetto, Vidalia, and Iowa. While on these over night trips, I was able to be hands on the entire farming process from field preparation, planting, fertilization, pesticide application, and harvest. My favorite part of this internship was being able to see the technology that is used in modern agriculture including drones, precision ag technology (GPS and automated guidance), and the test plot combines that can give the operator the moisture level and yield weight while still in the cab. The entire crew at the Rice Research Station and other stations that I visited were a wealth of information which allowed me to become more knowledgeable about rice, soybeans, sorghum, corn, wheat, soil health, water management, and sustainable agriculture practices. I would recommend anyone with an interest in Agronomy, Biotechnology, plant Breeding, Entomology, Hybrid breeding, Pathology, and everything far and in between to apply for this internship. The internship committee will work with you to put you in a position that will best suit your interest.

Sincerely,

Hunter Lepretre