

Apprenticeship Title:	Investigating the Economic Factors Associated with the Adoption of Food Safety Standards by Vegetable Growers
Duration:	12 weeks (approximately May – August, 2018)
Compensation:	\$500/week plus benefits and travel allowance for job-related travel
Minimum age:	18
Minimum requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be currently enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university in a course of study relevant to the mission of Extension. • Must have completed sophomore year prior to the start of the apprenticeship. Must NOT be eligible to graduate prior to December 2018. • Must possess a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale at the time of application (exceptions will be considered with substantial justification). • Must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. • Must have a valid driver’s license. • Must be willing to travel (regionally) and work flexible hours. This position requires travel connected with official duties, including attendance at night and weekend meetings, conferences, etc. (Travel reimbursement will be provided.) • Must have proficiency in Microsoft Office programs including Word, Power Point, and Excel.
Preferred qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to work effectively and build relationships with others. • Have good organization and planning skills and be able to demonstrate effective project coordination, facilitation, and implementation based on past work or school experiences. • Possess deductive reasoning skills and be able to analyze and synthesize information. • Have a personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues. • Major in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Food Science, Public Policy or closely related field.
General Apprenticeship Description:	<p>The goal of this apprenticeship is to provide the apprentice an opportunity to research a policy topic that could significantly affect growers’ practices and production costs, and to identify strategies to help producers overcome food-safety adoption barriers. The apprentice, in conjunction with the mentor, will study the barriers and cost of adoption of food safety standards by producers in Mississippi using face-to-face interviews and surveys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with an MSU Extension faculty specialist/mentor and other Extension personnel to coordinate research and implement related outreach program events and activities. • Maintain an ongoing, professional relationship with your assigned faculty mentor. • Participate in meetings where local issues are identified and prioritized, and program results and plans are discussed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in preparations for planned events and activities by gathering information, assembling materials, contacting participants, and soliciting support from external sources. As appropriate, conduct the teaching, training or other program presentations. • In some cases, the apprentice may identify and develop a value-added process, program, or training tool that may be implemented within the hosting unit's current operations. • Maintain and submit a weekly reflective journal outlining apprenticeship experiences. • Will be expected to develop and present a poster or presentation at an industry-related conference or professional meeting identified by the Extension faculty specialist/mentor.
<p>Other Information:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing is not provided. However, program administrators may be able to assist you in finding an affordable place to live. • This position is funded by the FY16 USDA NIFA AFRI ELI Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduates (REEU) Fellowships Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2017-67033-26015.
<p>Apprenticeship Faculty Mentor:</p>	<p>Dr. Elizabeth Canales Assistant Extension Professor Department of Agricultural Economics Mississippi State University 361 Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Building P.O. Box 5187 Mississippi State, MS 39762 P: (662) 325-2516 E: elizabeth.canales@msstate.edu</p>
<p>Apprenticeship Program Director:</p>	<p>Dr. Marina Denny mdd269@msstate.edu 662-325-1175 (office)</p>
<p>Application Process:</p>	<p>Online application and supplemental documentation due by 11:59 PM on February 28, 2018.</p> <p>Supplemental documentation for this apprenticeship opportunity must be e-mailed directly to the Apprenticeship Program Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unofficial Transcripts • Two Letters of Recommendation