

FORMER COE STUDENT MADISYN MURPHY DISCUSSES VALUE OF HER COE EXPERIENCE

Madisyn Murphy was a student at Purdue University when she learned about the COE program. She was pursuing a degree in Animal Science and had a pre-vet focus. She took COE classes in 2019 and 2020.

During her first summer in COE, she was placed with Hy-Line NA for her internship, working in the Spencer, IA, location. While she had an interest in chickens prior to coming to COE, this was her first experience working in the poultry industry. From her first summer of COE, Madisyn said she learned many skills she thought would help her pursue a career in veterinary medicine, but also gave her exposure to other animal science-based careers she had not considered before.

She applied to finish the COE courses and ended up participating in COE's only virtual session during summer of 2020. After the 2020 classes, Madisyn returned to Hy-Line NA for a second internship, this time working in their Warren, IN, location. She worked alongside flock managers doing oropharyngeal swabs, blood draws, and environmental swabs. She also learned about pullet vaccinations and the flow of birds from start to finish.

As she approached graduation, Madisyn decided to look into career opportunities she could get with a bachelor's degree in animal science. She accepted a Flock Service Manager Position with Hy-Line NA.

In her role, Madisyn helps manage and advise contract producers and ensure Hy-Line's animal welfare and biosecurity programs are implemented. "The producers and I work together to grow the healthiest and best producing hens possible. Our hens are producing chicks for our customers, we need to make sure they are healthy and happy first so they can produce the best possible chicks," Madisyn said.

The COE program helped Madisyn see the career options available in the poultry industry and how important all the areas are for raising healthy birds. For Madisyn, COE is one of the things that makes the industry feel like a tight-knitted community. "COE allowed me to meet so many people. Even if someone didn't go to COE, when I start talking about the program there always seems to be a connection somehow – maybe their friends and co-workers went, or maybe they were involved with the program some other way. That commonality makes the industry feel tighter knit and makes me really happy to have been part of the program."

Madisyn remains connected with the COE network in her work and personal life. "For just a few examples of my COE network, I work with Jeremy Lies (COE 2001/2002) and I started to get to know him my first year of COE. I work with past grads at related companies too, like Joe Sylve (COE 2011/2012) is a COE graduate and we connect about Best Veterinary Solutions products. And I keep in contact with some of my COE classmates, like Dana Patterson (COE 2020) who was a student at University of Florida."

At COE, Madisyn learned about all the steps that go into raising poultry and how they are all interconnected, "As I grow my experience at Hy-Line, I am constantly reminded how every little step is connected and it all adds up to allowing a hen to lay a quality egg." While she said all the classes had direct application to her job, she finds herself going back to material from the Poultry Nutrition and Avian Physiology courses often.

Outside of work, Madisyn has taken up photography; she enjoys traveling and photographing her visits. She also has two Corgis who can simultaneously drive her crazy and fill her with joy.

