School of Environment and Natural Resources

Environmental Educator at Gorman Heritage Farm

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Background

- I worked at Gorman Heritage Farm in Evendale, Ohio
- Gorman Farm’s Mission: is to cultivate a healthy community through farm-based education and experiences about food, sustainable agriculture, and the natural world
- The farm provides the opportunity for the public to learn more about the environment and agriculture
- I found the position through Handshake

Things I learned

- How to manage interactions between children and large animals
- Farm animal behavior and how to work around it
- How to handle various animals
- Ways sustainable agriculture is implemented
- What goes into row crop agriculture
  - Equipment
  - Tillage vs no-tillage
- The correct way to care for various types of equines
  - Ponies, mini-horses, mini-donkeys, and mules

On the Job

Daily Tasks
- Completed farm chores with children
  - Cleaned animal pens
  - Gave the animals water and food
  - Taught lessons on pollination, the poultry and beef industry, animal care, and other environmental topics
  - Interacted with various children who were participating in the summer day camp

Other Tasks
- Cleaned equipment
- Groomed the animals
- Checked the chickens for eggs
- Gardened

Reflection

- Through this job I learned so much about animals and their behaviors
- I was able to apply the knowledge from my courses to this position
- My communication skills and ability to teach lessons has greatly improved
- I loved being able to have first hand interactions with animals, children, and the environment
- In the future I would love to have large animals, but my career goals are to pursue sustainability in business rather than continue as an educator
- This position taught me so many useful skills and information

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the employees at Gorman Heritage Farm. They allowed me access to all parts of the farm, and their jobs. I learned so much from the experience, and I also made some great friendships. Thank you very much Gorman Heritage Farm.