Trevor Lee

Dr. Charles Starkey

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**Why are you taking this class?**

Since my future career will be in poultry nutrition, it is beneficial for me to take a class on feed manufacturing; the two go hand-in-hand in providing feed for the industry. This is especially true since, last semester, I enrolled in Dr. Dozier’s poultry nutrition course. In this class, I will able to come full circle on the feed mill topics discussed in Dr. Dozier’ class, such as the roller mill slipping, steam issues, and comparing different application techniques.

Furthermore, I will be attending the University of Arkansas for graduate school and they do not currently provide a feed manufacturing class for my curriculum. Additionally, I will be participating in an internship this coming summer in Pittsburg, TX with Dr. McCreery, one of Pilgrim’s nutritionists. During that time, I will be spending ample of time in their feed mill. Also, during two previous internships, I spent at least a week working in the feed mill but did not have the opportunity to learn the operations or the components of it during my time.

**What would you like to get out of this class?**

As previously stated, the internships in which I participated did not build any knowledge of the feed mill operations, aside from learning how to sweep and clean. In addition, I work in Dr. Dozier’s lab group and, even though we work in nutrition, we do not spend time learning about feed mill processes, or at least the undergraduate workers do not.

In this course, I would like to gain a solid foundation in feed manufacturing upon which I can continue to build my knowledge of poultry nutrition. I do not plan to be able to understand every detail of the process at the end of the semester, but to begin working towards that. Particularly, I'd like to focus on learning how the computer operations work, understanding and being able to explain the full-detail process of creating feed, learning common problems and mistakes while learning how to fix them, how to improve feed mill efficiency, and building a personal mindset of how individuals think and work in the feed mill. This will assist in my future career.

**How do you plan to use this information learned in your future career?**

In my most recent internship, I worked with a nutritionist who did not spend any time in the feed mill nor on the farm with the birds for which he was formulating feed; I, however, believe it is essential to see the animals to which the feed is going in order to do the best job possible. Secondly, even though the feed mill manager's job is to run the mill, I believe it is beneficial to have sufficient knowledge of its workings so that if something goes wrong and a standard correction cannot be used, I will have the ability to help come up with a new solution. Additionally, I believe understanding the feed mill will cultivate relationships and better rapport between the individuals working there and myself, the nutritionist, to get the job done as efficiently and economically as possible for the company.