

Internship at Food Safety Net Services

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I. Summary

My cooperative internship experience is at a microbiology lab called Food Safety Net Services or FSNS for Short. At FSNS we provide food safety testing for our clients for both qualitative and quantitative methods. This includes sampling of products, enrichment, plating, and PCR tests to identify and innumerate harmful pathogens such as Salmonella, E. coli O157, Listeria and other microorganisms that can spoil and degrade products. We provide a service that

keeps people safe from the food they eat. My responsibilities include setting up projects, verifying data and organizing workflow to ensure that projects are completed and released on time. In addition, I spend about half of my time processing the samples and running tests. I wanted this CO-OP experience because I have always been interested in Biology and the study of microorganisms, but also because it provides me with valuable industry experience.

II. Managing Projects

Managing projects includes

- Verifying client specifications
- Organizing project into an easy to work with format
- Confirming key biological tests to be performed
- Ensuring accuracy and traceability of results
- Completing a releasing projects in a timely manner.



PCR Testing for Salmonella



Laboratory Control Samples

Preparing quantitative and qualitative LCS standards to ensure quality and controlled analytical success. LCS standards will be preserved for the next month and used daily to qualify accuracy of the tests we run.



IV. Takeaways

Over the course of this Cooperative internship period I have learned many valuable lab skills such as.

- aseptic technique,
- starting projects and knowing what tests need to be performed and how to complete them.
- Supervising the work of less seasoned lab techs.

- Ensuring accuracy in aspects of the project.
- Diversified knowledge of PCR tests.
- Laboratory control samples
- Gram Staining and Identification of Lactic acid producing bacteria

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