AGRI-BUSINESS CONSULTANTS, INC. is an Independent Crop Consulting firm. We strive to provide the best, most professional services to our clients. The people we hire to assist in carrying out our mission are critical to our success. We take pride in the supervision and training we provide our interns and employees. The experience gained with ABC, Inc. has been quite valuable to former employees. We have hired five of our scouts as consultants and many have gone on to graduate school and careers in agriculture.

AVAILABILITY & LOCATION: We currently have three summer scouting jobs or paid intern positions available for current college students or recent graduates in the Montcalm county area of Michigan. The jobs and internships will begin in late-May 2016 and run through late August to mid-September 2016. However, there may also be opportunities to assist with soil sampling into December 2016. We are willing to work with you and your institution to make this a good learning experience and to meet their requirements for you to receive college credit.

DESCRIPTIONS: The internship positions are designed around providing students or recent graduates with valuable experiences in the crop consulting and integrated pest management profession. In the Montcalm county area, the majority of our clients grow potatoes. We strive to bridge the knowledge students have already gained with the real world, in-field complexities of potato IPM. Our interns and scouts receive extensive training in accurate pest identification, general crop health and sampling methods. Employment that may extend into the fall season includes GPS soil sampling for fertility and nematode populations, data entry and possibly GIS map making experiences.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES
SCOUTING: A major portion of this job includes crop scouting for the duration of the potato growing season. Scouting involves visiting fields every five to seven days, systematically examining them and filling out report forms to assist consultants with management decisions. Crop health, growth stage, insect populations, disease pressure and weed abundance are monitored and reported. Scouting offers the intern a unique acquaintance with the efficacy of pest management practices which includes a diverse range of fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide and insecticide chemistries.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS: We are looking for self-motivated candidates that will demonstrate strong interest and take initiative. Interns will be asked to share their learning objectives with us. We encourage interns to take on an individual project in an area of personal interest that will contribute to our company’s objectives. Interns may also be asked to help with data entry and summarization.

SOIL SAMPLING: Work in the fall involves pulling soil samples for fertility and nematode analysis using GPS technology. Employees will be trained in appropriate soil sampling techniques to make site specific fertility and nematode management recommendations and learn about the soil types and textures of the area.
QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants with course work, training and a career interest in agronomy, horticulture, integrated pest management, entomology, nematology, nutrient management, plant pathology, weed science or GIS technology are preferred. However, people looking for a job that have more general backgrounds and interests in biology, the outdoors or natural resources management are also encouraged to apply. Applicants must like to work outdoors and be disciplined enough to work independently. Scouts generally walk 5-10 miles per day through potato fields, so they must be physically fit. Written and verbal communication skills, attention to paperwork details and organizational abilities are important to successful completion of this job. Reliable transportation is required. A company truck and ATV would be available for soil sampling.

SALARY: Your starting hourly pay will be based on education and experience. Payroll dates occur twice a month and will be provided at the time of employment. We reimburse miles driven for business purposes.

Interested parties should contact Casey W. Carr at caseyw@agribusinessconsultants.com or (616) 824-1037 for more information and/or an application form.