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POUL 5020

Dr. Starkey

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### Feed Manufacturing

Throughout my time at Auburn, I have grown to love the feed manufacturing side of the poultry industry. I began work at the research feed mill during my first semester at Auburn and did so for a year and a half. The feed industry has been a huge part of my life, thus far. Our family farm uses cattle and horse feed daily. Several members of my immediate family have made careers out of the feed industry as well. These two reasons make me want to learn everything I can about the process and the industry. I am taking this class to further my knowledge about feed manufacturing. One of the reasons that I feel I will easily learn in this class is because it is taught in a running feed mill. The lab will take place inside the mill. There will be hands-on experience that allows learning to be efficient and fun. It is a research feed mill and is small scale compared to an industry mill. This allows students to participate in many different parts of the process and that is one thing that I look forward to. I want to learn the background behind feed manufacturing and how it has evolved. Another thing that I want to learn in detail is the pelleting process. It is much more complex than it looks from an outside perspective. When having to account for different parameters, such as steam and temperature, it becomes a difficult thing to do. I want to learn about the boiler system and how the steam is fed into the conditioner. The hygieniser is also an important piece of equipment that is somewhat new in our industry. We are fortunate enough to have one at the feed mill in which our class is held. I want to learn more about how it works and the cost that it takes to run one and why more poultry companies do not have one in their mills. I also want to learn more about the commercial feed industry. The commercial feed industry has different methods that they use because they must make feed for many different kinds of animals. I

hope to learn about the ways to produce feed for all kinds of animals. I also want to learn what ingredients are used for different animals and how that will affect the feed manufacturing process but especially the pelleting process.

I want to obtain a graduate degree with a focus in poultry nutrition. With this occupation I will need to know the feed manufacturing process so that I can successfully formulate diets that will be able to run smoothly through a mill as well as meet dietary needs for birds. Also, the feed mill is a major cost center for an integrated poultry company. If the feed mill can keep costs down, then the company will have better return. I have already had some ideas about feed mill research and I feel as though learning the feed mill process this early will give me ideas of research that can be run to cut costs in the mill even more. I also hope to have a family cattle farm one day. I want to learn about the commercial feed industry to better my knowledge on what types of feed will be beneficial for the cattle. Learning the process will only help me in that regard as well.