

## Career Fair

This year was the first year that I have attended the College of Agriculture's career fair. With that being said, I did not know what to expect. The main question I had going in was, how many jobs would be represented there that I would qualify for, given my current major. There were a wide variety of companies from the agriculture industry with several of the top 10 poultry integrators there. I was able to talk to representatives from every one of the poultry companies that were present. The good thing for us was that some of the representatives of these companies were either Auburn graduates, or had spoken at one of our Poultry Science club meetings in the past so it made it easier to talk to them. I was not really looking to solidify an internship at this career fair, but I was trying to get my name in with people and get a head start before going to IPPE in January. The most comfortable conversation I had during this experience was with the Wayne Farms representatives. There were two representatives there; with one being our speaker for the club meeting the week prior, and the other being a recent Auburn graduate that was in my Introduction to Poultry class last fall. They were both able to connect with me easier than people that I had never met before. There were multiple representatives there from Tyson Foods. I talked to them about their internship opportunities throughout the state. I was able to speak with a representative from Keystone Foods who gave me a detailed explanation of the process of beginning to work with Keystone. The representative was very knowledgeable when it came to informing me of everything Keystone does. On top of that, I had some old friends that currently work with Keystone right and I was able to find out how they were doing through her. I also spoke with one of the representatives from Sanderson Farms, Perdue Foods, and Pilgrim's. I talked to them about the interview process for internships, and we got into what an intern is expected to do. The time I spent at the career fair helped get a head start on preparing for IPPE in January. I knew that I would not solidify an internship at the career fair but I wanted to get my name in the door at some places, and it also gave me some experience speaking with representatives. Although I did not know how people would react, I think things went well in all regards. I was able to talk to both poultry companies and non-poultry companies, which will help me in the long

run because I will be knowledgeable in multiple areas of agriculture not just the poultry industry. The special thing about agriculture is that we all have a main purpose, which is to feed people. All the agriculture careers may play different roles, but we can all share the main goal of feeding people and that brings us all together. This career fair reiterated that fact to me because I got the chance to speak with many different agriculture employers.