



## **Virginia Tech's Agricultural Technology Program Student Interns in New York for Summer 2009!**



The summer of 2009 was quite a memorable and exciting one for the second-year students enrolled in Virginia Tech's two-year Agricultural Technology Program. Each summer, students enrolled in this associates program are required to complete an internship that relates to their personal career objectives. Through these experiences, students are able to test their occupational aspirations and they have the opportunity to learn their fields inside and out. Optimally, students are paid for their hard work during these summer experiences. For Brad Edstrom, payment came in the form of both a check and memories that will last a life time.

Brad Edstrom, an Ag Tech student enrolled in the Applied Agricultural Management option, decided to venture away from his hometown in Hanover, Va. to complete his internship this past summer. He made the 13-hour drive to Chazy, N.Y., which is roughly five miles from the Canadian border, where he was employed by the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute from May 18<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Miner established this farm in 1903 and it is presently utilized to research several facets of the agricultural industry along with being an educational farm to both those directly and indirectly involved in the agricultural industry. Brad, along with three other students from across the country, participated in the 13-week summer internship focusing on farm management. In addition, the William H. Miner Institute also offers six summer internships in the equine field along with two in the broad area of research.



According to Brad, the duties and responsibilities he was actively engaged in during his stay depended upon the week. Dairy farm management interns rotated each week to engage in several aspects of the farm. Useful skills were developed while milking the cows in the parlor, feeding the calves, participating in crop production, and completing herd health inspections. Of these, Brad enjoyed his time in the milking parlor the most because it was an experience he had no background in. The picture in the bottom left hand corner of this article shows Brad in the milking parlor.

Brad's internship provided him with dorm-style living quarters at no cost and a cafeteria-style breakfast and lunch each day. However, interns were responsible for providing their own dinners along with meals on the weekends. Every other weekend, the interns had off from their duties on the farm and Brad was able to take advantage of this time to visit local attractions in Montreal, Canada, and Burlington, Vt. with new friends. Brad stated that getting to know and spend time with these friends on the trips was the best part of the whole internship experience.

Though Brad really misses his fellow interns and the atmosphere of the whole internship experience, he plans to graduate this year from the Agricultural Technology Program. He will then focus on his goal of earning a four-year degree majoring in Agricultural and Applied Economics and obtaining a minor in Dairy Science.

