

Internship Opportunity: United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Marketing Service

Time of Program: (Expected) May 2025 – August 2025

Location: Virtual

Travel: Minimum Travel Required

Desired Skills: We are looking for individuals with a regulatory knowledge of 21 CFR, 9 CFR, or 7 CFR, a keen interest in regulatory policy, and a curiosity for the bioengineered disclosure labeling rulemaking process. Your role will involve researching technical responses to stakeholders and customers and assisting with bioengineered disclosure evidence collection for consumer complaints.

Host Agency: USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Food Disclosure Labeling Division (FDLD) partners with other agencies as part of the Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology involved with reviewing biotechnology research and products, specifically at the retail level for our agency.

Program Description: The National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law, a significant legislation passed by Congress in July 2016, directed the USDA to establish a national mandatory standard for disclosing foods that are or may be bioengineered. The law became enforceable on January 1, 2022, marking a crucial milestone in the regulation of bioengineered foods.

The Standard requires food manufacturers, importers, and certain retailers to disclose bioengineered foods appropriately. Regulated entities have several disclosure options: text, symbol, electronic or digital link, and/or text message. Additional options, such as a phone number or web address, are available to small food manufacturers or for small and very small packages.

The Standard defines bioengineered foods as those containing detectable genetic material modified through specific lab techniques and cannot be created through conventional breeding or found in nature.

AMS developed the List of Bioengineered Foods to identify the crops or foods available in a bioengineered form worldwide, for which regulated entities must maintain records. These records will inform regulated entities about whether they must make a bioengineered food disclosure, helping to ensure compliance with the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law.

Participants in this program will have the unique opportunity to gain exposure in:

- Learning about the regulatory rulemaking process
- Partnering and collaborating with other agencies on reviewing biotechnology research
- Engaging with stakeholders, linking with interagency partnerships
- Building and honing customer service skills
- Cross-branch collaboration of consumer complaints for bioengineered disclosure investigations