Abigail VanOrden
UW-Platteville Student & PACCE Summer Intern

Abigail’s aha moment: “I’m discovering what I want to do and what I love!”

How did your internship opportunity happen?
The owner of Circle M Farms visited one of my art classes. I was intrigued by the wide spectrum of activities that she is involved in. I thought it would be a good fit for me…and it is!

How does your internship complement your academic goals?
I haven’t settled on a definite major and am pursuing classes in both ag education and animal science. This internship combined elements of both so it’s been a great learning experience…I have learned that I do want to raise chickens someday…but not sheep!

How are you spending your days?
I harvest produce; help with the animals and milk the goats every day. I help to assemble produce boxes for the CSA distribution in both Madison & Mt. Horeb WI. The owner also teaches classes at Folklore Village and I’m helping with those. I do some work on their website as well.

What types of skills are you learning?
I have been learning about dairy science including organic vegetables and how to treat different diseases and obstacles that face organic farmers. I also learned about cooking with local, fresh vegetables. I began working in the kitchen and cooking with kale, lemon balm, milkweed, and all sorts of new herbs that I had never heard of!

“I milk two goats every day…and have learned how to make goat cheese!” - VanOrden

For more information, visit www.uwplatt.edu/pacce Summer 2013