Dear Broussard Family,

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity I had this past summer. I worked under Dr. Connor Webster in the Weed Science Department, where I gained valuable hands-on experience in agricultural research. Throughout the summer, I assisted with applying herbicides to rice research plots, learned how to evaluate weed control in rice production systems, collected biomass samples, identified weed species, traveled to various research stations and field days, and helped set up and dismantle research trials.

One of the things I enjoyed most about this experience was the variety of work I was able to do. No two days were the same. In a single week, I might work at the South Farm in Crowley, travel to St. Joseph to assist with spraying operations, and spend time in the office in Baton Rouge. The diversity of experiences made every day engaging and provided a broader understanding of agricultural research across the state.

I am especially thankful for everyone I had the opportunity to work with throughout the summer. The entire team was incredibly supportive, and I learned so much from each of them. In addition to my regular responsibilities, I was able to assist graduate students as they prepared for the Southern Weed Science Contest. I helped collect weed specimens for study materials and assisted in creating symptomology tests. To cap off the summer, I was given the opportunity to travel to Knoxville, Tennessee, to help with the competition. This was an amazing experience that allowed me to build connections with students, researchers, and professionals from across the United States.

When I began this internship, I had very little knowledge of rice production or agricultural research. However, through the experiences and opportunities I was given, I now feel much more knowledgeable and confident in these areas. I plan to apply what I have learned as I pursue my goal of becoming an agricultural extension agent.

Once again, thank you for providing me with this incredible opportunity. Your generosity and support have made a lasting impact on my personal and professional development, and I am truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Lily Perrin