Who we are:
Sun-Maid Growers of California is an American privately-owned cooperative of raisin growers headquartered in Fresno, California. Sun-Maid is the largest raisin and dried fruit processor in the world. As a cooperative, Sun-Maid is made up of approximately 850 family farmers who grow raisin grapes within a 100-mile (160-kilometer) radius of the processing plant. Sun-Maid also sources dried fruit beyond this geographical area. In 2012, Sun-Maid celebrated its 100th anniversary as a grower cooperative. Sun-Maid raisins are packaged in a red box featuring the “Sun-Maid Girl” wearing a red sunbonnet and holding a tray of fresh grapes. The grapes are picked at harvest time, usually late August to early September, and dried naturally in the sun, either by hand-picking them and laying them on paper trays or allowing them to dry-on-the-vine (DOV) for mechanical harvesting. After about 14 days, they are placed in bins and delivered to the Sun-Maid plant for processing, packaging, and shipping to customers throughout the United States and in more than 60 countries around the world.

Sun-Maid is offering a paid six-month packaging engineer internship at its Kingsburg Facility. The position will work closely with the current packaging engineer.

What you will be doing:
Primary Project:
- Sustainable Packaging Development
  - Sun-Maid Currently has multiple sustainability initiatives that affect many of our packaging formats (Overwrap, Lidding, Canisters, Pouches, and Cartons).
  - The R&D packaging intern will be assigned to one major sustainability project in which they will be the lead
  - The project will entail changing one of our packaging materials to a recyclable, compostable, or reusable alternative
  - The intern must be prepared to not only communicate with our internal stakeholders (Marketing, Operations, Graphics, and Procurement), but also external stakeholders (Suppliers and Vendors)
  - The intern must have strong leadership and project management skills to be successful in tackling this project
Other Core Responsibilities:
- Packaging Specification Development
  - Help the lead packaging engineer develop a database to hold packaging specifications, including Finished Package Specifications, Pallet Patterns, and Package Technical Drawings
  - Once the database is created Packaging will work with Master data to maintain the specifications and allow other departments to view for their own projects
  - This project involves working with multiple stakeholders (Operations, Graphics, Procurement, and Suppliers) and requires strong communication skills
- Packaging Quality Improvement
  - Investigate and identify root cause of quality problems pertaining to packaging
  - Conduct tests, line trials, etc. to solve the issue and improve production line reliability, package process and/or consumer experience with package format
  - Prepare and present results of technical reports to business team, both written and oral to communicate the corrective action
- Day-to-day assistance with identifying viable packaging options and alternatives
• Day-to-day support also may include follow-up on specific tasks such as testing and obtaining feedback from cross-functional teams

What we are Looking for:
• Actively enrolled in an Undergraduate/Graduate Packaging Engineering program
• Emphasis in food packaging is a plus but is not required
• A minimum GPA of 3.0
• Strong technical, organizational, and communication skills
• Experience with specifications and pallet design software (Tops, CAPE)
• Must be available for an internship for Summer/Fall of 2021

Apply: Send resume by 3/5/2021 to DSpruit@sunmaid.com