

PROJECT TITLE: SP0175 Mobile Chicken Coop Renovations

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the [SPF Staff](#) via e-mail.

Final Report prepared by Paul Meldrum
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Actual Project Start Date Autumn 2017 Actual Project End Date 2017-12-19

Questions

1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments to date. In your answer, consider the impact your project has had so far on McGill's campus(es).
(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

It should be noted that this report is being written by the General Manager of the Macdonald Campus Farm, as the student group that was to manage this project has dissolved. However, this should not be construed that the project is dead, as you will see further down in the report.

The latest phase in the Mobile Chicken Coop was a project to install a solar powered ventilation system and insulate the ceiling to improve winter conditions for the hens. This was mostly completed by a team of volunteer students, but the interior of the coop was not painted and instruction manuals on the operation and maintenance of the ventilation system was not done. Another part of the project was to set up a system to collect rain water, to replace the current system of hauling municipal water by barrels for the hens – this was not accomplished. The coop is now better positioned to be used in winter, but the feasibility of winter use remains in question due to the challenges of obtaining and organizing volunteers, and of setting up an organization whereby there is continuity and good succession planning (such as exists with MSEG, for example). The project still has great potential in the spring, summer and fall, with participation of students and assistance and guidance from Farm staff. There is also great potential to include the Mobile Chicken Coop in educational programs that will operate from the new Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre (opening date not yet determined).

2. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)
(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

The success of this most recent project with the Mobile Chicken Coop has been that the coop was renovated to use solar power for ventilation, and insulation was installed in the ceiling to keep the coop cooler in summer and warmer in winter, if indeed the coop will be used in winter. The challenges have been many:

- a) Creating and maintaining a well-organized student group to oversee the running and management of the Mobile Chicken Coop, including succession planning with knowledge transfer. This has been the biggest impediment to the continued use of the coop and the success of the original project. Difficulty arose when the Macdonald Campus Students Society (MCSS) determined that the club set up to operate the coop was in violation of MCSS by-laws due to plans to generate income and pay its members. Attempts were made by students to establish a group of volunteers as late as 2019, but these were unsuccessful.
- b) Difficulties also arose due to the complex health regulations in selling eggs to the public, and a conflict with regulations of selling eggs from a small poultry operation on McGill property, where there already exists a licensed egg producing facility.
- c) Communication issues with the last group that was significantly motivated in pursuing the project – the small number of people involved graduated and/or left McGill with no succession plan, and no directions or guidelines as to the operation of the solar powered ventilation system. However, a brief inspection of the system indicates that it is a fairly simple affair, and should not be that difficult to put into operation. A manual and SOP should be written.
- d) Meeting the requirements of the Facility Animal Care Committee (MAC-FACC) and the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) for proper care of the hens during the winter. These hens need to be checked and cared for on a daily basis, and the student group was unable to meet this commitment. Both the MAC-FACC and the CCAC stipulated that

the interior of the coop should be painted to facilitate cleaning and washing.

3. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Student-run SPF projects are typically borne of a small group of enthusiastic, well-meaning people who have vision and great ideas. However, without a well-designed succession plan, including a mechanism for continued financial support/stability, the chances of success of such projects are greatly diminished. On the Macdonald Campus, the Farm has been able to incorporate some of these projects, but there is a limit to the Farm's financial and human resources. I strongly urge SPF teams to have realistic succession and financial plans, and to thoroughly research all regulations, both governmental and institutional, that could have an impact on their projects.

4. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project's future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project's progress in coming years, if ongoing.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

The Mobile Chicken Coop project still has much potential for success. The General Manager of the Macdonald Campus Farm plans to incorporate the coop into the SPF Pasture Project as part of an intensively managed rotational grazing system in the spring, summer and fall. At this point, the coop will not be operated during the winter months due to staffing challenges. When the coop is returned to operation, the hens will be placed at a host farm for the winter, and then brought back to the Mobile Chicken Coop for the grazing season. This system will be used for demonstrating a sustainable model for egg production to McGill students and the general public. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mobile chicken Coop will not be used this year – it is planned to re-activate the coop for the 2021 grazing season.

5. Would you or your project team member(s) be willing to serve as a mentor to SPF project teams? Please choose one. If yes, SPF Staff will contact you with more information.

(800 characters maximum)

X Yes No

I am always interested in mentoring students.

6. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding:

N/A

Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.

(1,800 characters maximum)

As I was not directly involved in this project, and am just now taking responsibility for it, I can only comment on the figures quoted in the Progress Report: the total budget was \$4,964 – SPF staff will have to comment on how much of this was spent. I see no evidence that the solar wall (expected cost of \$2,000) was constructed, and I have no knowledge of any plans or intended use for this wall.

7. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus? Yes No
 If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.
(1,800 characters maximum)

Based on the Progress Report, \$500 was spent on materials to insulate the ceiling and install a solar powered ventilation system – I have no access to receipts. Some wood and insulation was re-used in the renovation project. Due to the age of the existing battery, a new, deep cell battery will need to be purchased at a cost of approximately \$200. The ceiling panels will have to be screwed down, and the interior painted to meet MAC-FACC and CCAC requirements.

8. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the “Actual” column.

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual
# of students recruited and trained for daily animal care	15	0
# of user guides created and available within the coop	1	0
% less tap water used in the project	50%	0

If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.
(1,800 characters maximum)

Please see “challenges” in Section 2 above.

9. Please report on your progress with the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the “Actual” column.

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	9
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	10
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	0
# of tons of GHG emissions reduced by your project	0
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	1

Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.
(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

Macdonald Campus Farm

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below.
(1,800 characters maximum)

The success indicators would be much higher had there been succession planning. The indicators in this report should not be interpreted as indicators of future success, as the use and operation of the Mobile Chicken Coop will now fall under the management of the Macdonald Campus Farm, and be incorporated into the intensive rotational grazing system on a seasonal basis.

10. Please indicate the McGill stakeholder groups that were involved with your project as a team member or collaborator/partner. Choose all that apply.

X Undergraduate Postgraduate X Administrative Staff X Academic Staff Alumni

11. Please rate your project team's overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied X Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

12. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team's experience with the SPF
(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

I cannot speak on behalf of the now defunct team. However, in working to assume this project, I have received excellent support from the SPF.

13. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.
(Unlimited characters)

14. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of professional growth? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.
(800 characters maximum)

Yes No X Prefer Not to Share

Cannot comment

15. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of personal growth? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.
(800 characters maximum)

Yes No X Prefer Not to Share

Cannot comment

16. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting | X <input type="checkbox"/> Networking | <input type="checkbox"/> Systems Thinking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Resolution | X <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving | X <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Time Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify in |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Identification | the field below) |

Other: The above responses are based on the observations of the Farm Manager.

17. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.

(800 characters maximum)

Yes No Prefer Not to Share

Cannot comment

18. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities:

Please identify the represented communities below. (e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)

(1,800 characters maximum)

Women, people of colour, LBTTQI, members of ethnic minorities, people with disabilities

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING YOUR FINAL REPORT!

Please e-mail your report to the [SPF Staff](#) attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.