

Project #4 SDSU Beyond Internships

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

AWARD YEARS 2016 FORWARD

A Final Performance Report must be received within 90 days after the end of the grant agreement. You are required to report on the administration of the agreement and each project approved within the agreement. The completed Final Performance Report will be posted to the AMS website.

FINAL PROJECT REPORT TEMPLATE

Final Performance Reports must illustrate the completion of each project within the grant agreement. Each project shall be outlined as separate project profiles. You will report on projects in the same order they were submitted in the approved application and subsequent amendments.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Connecting Students with Specialty Crop Growers: Beyond Internships			
Recipient Organization Name:	South Dakota State University			
Period of Performance:	Start Date:	9/30/2018	End Date:	9/29/2021
Recipient's Project Contact				
Name:	Rhoda Burrows			
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PERFORMANCE NARRATIVE

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Provide enough information for the reader to understand the importance or context of the project. This section may draw from the background and justification contained in the approved project proposal.

In a low-resource state, it will benefit every sector involved with specialty crops to work together in learning from each other. An avenue is needed to connect the needs, knowledge, and resources of specialty crop producers and SDSU students, particularly with the establishment of the Local Foods Education Center. We developed a pilot project to test a novel program to connect students and growers at a broader level, with enhanced student investigations based on grower-identified needs and interests, mutually benefiting students and growers, and the industry at large.

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

Address the below sections as they relate to the entire project's period of performance.

OBJECTIVES

Provide the approved project's objectives.

#	Objective	Completed?	
		Yes	No*
1	Students are partnered with individual specialty crop producers for a year-long mutual learning experience.		mostly

2	The program tests various avenues of communication, from farm visits to electronically facilitated meetings or phone calls to develop a general protocol for future programs.		X
3	Student and growers evaluate the pilot project and make suggestions for future programs and next steps. Students present findings on best practices to grower audience(s).		X
4	As the project is evaluated, faculty and students from other disciplines will be invited to explore possible expansion or alteration of the program to include their expertise, such as economics or marketing, or agricultural engineering.		X
5	Growers and students report enhanced knowledge and awareness of best practices, resources, and networking skills. Special emphasis will be placed on sustainable management practices and resources.		X

**If no is selected for any of the listed objectives, you must expand upon this in the challenges and lessons learned sections.*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

List your accomplishments for the project's period of performance, including the impact they had on the project's beneficiaries, and indicate how these accomplishments assist in the fulfillment of your project's objective(s), outcome(s), and/or indicator(s).

#	Accomplishment or Impact	Relevance to Objective, Outcome, and/or Indicator
1	SDSU Student met with grape grower and toured the vineyard, which uses biodynamic management practices	Student paired with grower; learned about the grower's challenges and practices, for example, pruning practices to minimize trunk diseases, H2O2 sprays to minimize leaf/fruit diseases, cover crops to deter weeds and furnish nutrients. The student did not follow up with the grower after the vineyard meeting.
2		
3		
4		

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Provide any challenges to the completion of your project or any positive developments outside of the project's original intent that you experienced during this project. Also, provide the corrective actions you took to address these issues. If you did not attain an approved objectives, outcome(s), and/or indicator(s), provide an explanation in the Corrective Actions column.

#	Challenge or Development	Corrective Action or Project Change
1	Growers were eager to participate, but students did not sign up, even despite the incentives. I presented the opportunity in person to horticulture classes twice, and distributed flyers on the project. The class instructor talked individually with students about the project, and emailed reminders to them as well as posting the flyers.	We had planned for a new recruitment phase for students in early spring 2020, but Covid-19 put an end to those efforts.
2	COVID-19 put a stop to all efforts in 2020 to match students and growers for the summer; no travel was allowed	Put on hold
3	Decided to end the project	
4		

LESSONS LEARNED

Provide recommendations or advice that others may use to improve their performance in implementing similar projects.

Although students initially showed interest, when it came time to sign up, only one did. The project lead was 400 miles from campus, and the cooperator on campus was unable to recruit students, perhaps not sharing the vision of the project lead. In retrospect a couple of student meetings on campus between growers and students might have forged the relationships to spark interest.

CONTINUATION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS (IF APPLICABLE)

Describe your plans for continuing the project (sustainability; capacity building) and/or disseminating the project results.

N/A

BENEFICIARIES

Number of project beneficiaries:.....one student and one grower and a now wiser project lead

OUTCOME(S) AND INDICATOR(S)/SUB-INDICATOR(S)

Provide the results of the project outcome(s) and indicator(s) as approved in your application and project proposal. The results of the outcome(s) and indicator(s) will be used to evaluate the performance of the Program on a national level.

OUTCOME MEASURE(S)X

Select the Outcome Measure(s) that were approved for your project.

- Outcome 1:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales
- Outcome 2:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption
- Outcome 3:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access
- Outcome 4:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops though greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources
- Outcome 5:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through more sustainable, diverse, and resilient specialty crop systems
- Outcome 6:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increasing the number of viable technologies to improve food safety
- Outcome 7:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased understanding of the ecology of threats to food safety from microbial and chemical sources
- Outcome 8:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development

OUTCOME INDICATOR(S)

Provide the indicator approved for your project and the related quantifiable result. If you have multiple outcomes and/or indicators, repeat this for each outcome/indicator (add more rows as needed).

#	Outcome and Indicator	Quantifiable Results
1	Outcome 4, Indicator 2a Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources a. Number of growers/producers indicating adoption of recommended	Indicator 2a: None recommended by student

	practices <u>N/A</u>	
2	Outcome 4, Indicator 2b Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources b. Number of growers/producers reporting reduction in pesticides, fertilizer, water used/acre <u>N/A</u>	Indicator 2b: None recommended by student
3	Outcome 5, Indicator 8 Number of growers/producers that gained knowledge about science-based tools through outreach and education programs <u>2</u>	1 grower and 1 student learned about trunk disease management
4		

DATA COLLECTION

Explain what data was collected, how it was collected, the evaluation methods used, and how the data was analyzed to derive the quantifiable indicator.

No data was generated due to non-participation of students

FEDERAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES

Cost Category	Amount Approved in Budget	Actual Federal Expenditures (Federal Funds ONLY)
Personnel	\$14,943.00	0
Fringe Benefits	3,336.00	0
Travel	6112.00	539.45
Equipment	0	0
Supplies	460.00	0
Contractual	6264.00	0
Other		
Direct Costs Sub-Total	31115.00	539.45
Indirect Costs	2706.00	43.16
Total Federal Costs	33821.00	582.61

PROGRAM INCOME (IF APPLICABLE)

Source/Nature (i.e., registration fees)	Amount Approved in Budget	Actual Amount Earned
1. N/A		
2.		
3.		
Total Program Income Earned		

Use of Program Income

Describe how the earned program income was used to further the objectives of this project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Provide additional information available (i.e., publications, websites, photographs) that is not applicable to any of the prior sections.