



Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

December 12, 2012

Project Leader: Bruce Branham
Project Team: Kevin Wolz, Michelle Wander, Jim Dalling, Ron Revord
Project: Perennial Polyculture Production Research Site

Re: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee – Award Recommendation

Dear Dr. Branham:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), I would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus.

SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Office of Sustainability that the Perennial Polyculture Production Research Site project **receive \$125,050 in grant funding** to support a five-acre production-research site adjacent to the Sustainable Student Farm for the purposes of (1) producing food for the campus dining halls, (2) studying perennial polyculture production, also known as permaculture or agroforestry, and (3) increasing the availability of student education around sustainable agriculture on our campus..

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2015.
2. A final report of all work completed should be provided by January 30, 2016.
3. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
4. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC.
5. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
6. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC Program Advisor, McKenzie Beverage, at mbeverag@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Office of Sustainability officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.

SSC Signatories

Marika Nell 12/12/12
Marika Nell
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee

Kathryn Kinley 12/12/12
Kathryn Kinley
Treasurer, Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Bruce Branham 12/17/12
Bruce Branham, Professor
Department of Crop Sciences, College of ACES

Office of Sustainability Signatory

P. K. Khanna
Pradeep Khanna, Associate Chancellor
Acting Director, Office of Sustainability



Project Information

Project: Perennial Polyculture Production Research Site

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$125,050

Award Code: 1-303692-802050-802498-802PPO

Receiving Campus Unit: Department of Crop Sciences

Unit Financial Contact: Nicole Issac

E-mail: nmisaac@illinois.edu **Phone:** (217) 265-5012

Primary Contact Person: Bruce Branham

E-mail: bbranham@illinois.edu **Phone:** (217) 333-7848

Secondary Contact Person: Kevin Wolz

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Project Description:

This funding inquiry seeks to support a five-acre production-research site adjacent to the Sustainable Student Farm for the purposes of (1) producing food for the campus dining halls, (2) studying perennial polyculture production, also known as permaculture or agroforestry, and (3) increasing the availability of student education around sustainable agriculture on our campus. Permaculture, or agroforestry, is an agricultural model that employs polycultures of woody, perennial plants that mimic the structure and function of a natural ecosystem. In other words, this is a system that has multiple tree and shrub species that return year after year, very similar to the Oak Savanna that occupied our area before settlers arrived. This request seeks funding for personnel, equipment, and supplies that pursue the three goals listed above.

The need for this type of multifaceted, interdisciplinary site at the University of Illinois is great, and the larger context in which this type of system fits is well established. Agricultural expansion and intensification to meet the needs of the world's growing human population threatens the functioning of many of Earth's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems through conversion to monoculture, soil erosion, chemical fertilizer and pesticide use, excess nutrient loads, overgrazing, and loss of biodiversity. Because of historical and contemporary ecosystem exploitative practices, agriculture and nature are generally seen in opposition to one another. Agriculture converts natural ecosystems to fields dedicated solely for the efficient, maximal production of crops or livestock for human consumption. Conservation seeks to preserve natural ecosystems from agricultural or urban development. Restoration rebuilds ecosystems broken by agriculture, mining, or other human development activities. The perennial polyculture production-research site attempts to break down the dichotomy between nature and humans, between restoration and agriculture.

This proposal represents a unique opportunity to increase the size of the SSF and the proportion of locally produced campus food while taking advantage of a significant investment that is already in the ground. Without SSC funding, the PP Site will undoubtedly continue to exist on campus, funded primarily by outside research funding. However, these funds will only fund research. Without SSC funding, the PP Site would not have the capacity to involve students, provide food to Dining Services, engage classes, or outreach to the community. Without SSC funding, the potential to turn this new, unique site into a collaborative, interdisciplinary project that supports campus sustainability, novel research, and new education opportunities would give way to the standard model of an isolated research site known to a select few professors and graduate students.