



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Semesterly Report

Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.

Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.

Project Name: Illinois Organic Internship

Date of Report Submission: 9/27/2021

Project Purpose:

This project was conceived to promote educational opportunities for students interested in sustainable agriculture and environmental quality.

Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:

To date, the project used \$11,999.04 in salary/wages for three undergraduate students. Please see the attached spreadsheet in Appendix A.

Project Progress to Date:

While this project was targeted to start in Fall 2020, efforts were delayed by a semester due to constraints associated with COVID-19 and availability of funds. In Spring 2021, we successfully recruited three undergraduate interns (M. Moulin, L. Murphy, C. Liu) who participated in various training efforts and supported work in our Illinois Organic Trial on Campus. Students participated in research related with plant-soil interactions and corn breeding. Specifically, students were involved in plot set up and maintenance, soil sampling and processing for soil health evaluation, corn breeding and phenotyping in organic production settings.

Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:

This is a student centric project and three students majoring in NRES/CPSC were involved in research projects studying the influence of organic management practices on soil health and the implementation of an organic corn breeding program at the University of Illinois.

Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:

Appendix B has a copy of a flyer used to advertise the internship. The flyer was distributed to all undergraduate students in the NRES and CPSC departments with the help of our academic

advising coordinators, on bulletin boards within the College of ACES, and the [Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program website](#).

The project also maintains a social media presence on Instagram ([corn and soil health at UIUC](#)) where we feature project-related progress and work with undergraduate and graduate students.

Additional Comments:

After three months of hard training, two students will be leading independent research projects in which they will gain additional experience on carrying through a small research project, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting/discussing results.



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Appendix A: Expenditures Report

	ILLINOIS ORGANIC INTERNSHIP		BALANCE
	SALARY & WAGES	FRINGE BENEFITS	
BEGINNING BALANCE			42,800.00
LIU C. 21BW12 05/16 - 05/29/21	880.00	5.54	
LIU C. 21BW13 05/30 - 06/12/21	836.00	5.27	
LIU C. 21BW14 06/13 - 06/26/21	605.00	3.81	
LIU C. 21BW15 06/27 - 06/30/21	264.00	1.66	
MOULIN M. 21BW12 05/16 - 05/29/21	833.80	69.04	
MOULIN M. 21BW13 05/30 - 06/12/21	649.00	53.74	
MOULIN M. 21BW14 06/13 - 06/26/21	828.30	68.58	
MURPHY L. 21BW12 05/16 - 05/29/21	880.00	72.87	
MURPHY L. 21BW13 05/30 - 06/12/21	616.00	51.00	
MURPHY L. 21BW14 06/13 - 06/26/21	880.00	72.86	
LIU C. 21 BW15 07/01 - 07/10/21	352.00	1.34	
MOULIN M. 21BW15 07/01 - 07/10/21	253.00	20.31	
MURPHY L. 21BW15 07/01 - 07/10/21	528.00	42.41	
LIU C. 21BW16 07/11 - 07/24/21	308.00	1.17	
MOULIN M. 21BW16 07/11 - 07/24/21	770.00	61.82	
MOULIN M. 21BW17 07/25 - 08/07/21	836.00	67.15	
MURPHY L. 21BW16 07/11 - 07/24/21	473.00	37.98	
MURPHY L. 21BW17 07/25 - 08/07/21	528.00	42.39	
SUBTOTAL	11,320.10	678.94	30,800.96



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Appendix B: Example of Flyer Used for Internship Promotion Illinois Organic Internship



Are you curious about conducting research in environmental science? With funding from the Student Sustainability Committee, we are hiring students to learn and conduct research in modern organic food production, soil health, and corn breeding techniques for regenerative systems.

Student interns will work closely with graduate students and visiting scientists in laboratory and field settings. Field duties will include maintenance of field research plots that includes work with planting, plant and soil sampling and processing, corn pollination and phenotyping. Lab duties will include sample processing and analysis.

Opportunities for independent projects will be available for students that continue to work in the Fall.

Students should expect to work from 20 to 40 hrs/week beginning in May and through August, and no more than 20 hrs/week in the Fall or Spring semesters. The starting pay rate is 11\$/hr. We strongly encourage applications from students of underrepresented groups with freshman or sophomore standing.

Applications will be received through March 31, 2021.

Interested applicants please send us an email to cugarte@illinois.edu or mnunez90@illinois.edu

