



2022

Factory Farming Awareness Coalition Intern

Caroline Burns
Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: https://cedar.wwu.edu/cenv_internship



Part of the [Environmental Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Burns, Caroline, "Factory Farming Awareness Coalition Intern" (2022). *College of the Environment Internship Reports*. 40.

https://cedar.wwu.edu/cenv_internship/40

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of the Environment at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of the Environment Internship Reports by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Internship Title: Factory Farming Awareness Coalition (FFAC) College Internship Program

Student Name: Caroline Burns

Internship Dates: 6/14/21-8/06/21

I grant to Western Washington University the non-exclusive royalty-free right to archive, reproduce, distribute, and display this Internship Report document in any and all forms, including electronic format, via any digital library mechanisms maintained by WWU. I represent and warrant this is original work, and does not infringe or violate any rights of others. I warrant that I have obtained written permissions from the owner of any third party copyrighted material included in this document. I acknowledge that I retain ownership rights to the copyright of this work, including but not limited to the right to use all or part of this work in future works, such as articles or books. Library users are granted permission for individual, research and non-commercial reproduction of this work for educational purposes only. Any further digital posting of this document requires specific permission from the author. Any copying or publication of this document for commercial purposes, or for financial gain, is not allowed without my written permission.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: *Caroline Burns*

DATE: 6/8/22

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Internship/Learning Agreement..... | 2 |
| Overview of FFAC and the Internship Program..... | 6 |
| Fulfilling My Original Learning Intentions..... | 7 |
| Contribution to My Educational Goals..... | 9 |
| Conclusion..... | 10 |

Internship/Learning Agreement

| Section 1 Student Identification | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Last Name, First Name: | Burns, Caroline | Western ID: | W01425723 |
| Email Address | burnsc9@wwu.edu | Major/PreMajor | Environmental Education |
| Section 2 Registration Information | | | |
| Total Credits: | 5 | Faculty Advisor: | Nick Stanger |
| Internship Start Date: | 06/14/21 | Internship End Date: | 08/06/21 |
| Number Credits Per Quarter (F/W/S/Sum) | 5 credits in Summer Quarter | | |
| <p><i>Note: You must be registered for credits during quarters you perform any part of the internship work (Including Summer Session) to include writing of reports...this can be spread over multiple quarters. You are expected to register an appropriate number of credits based on anticipated hours worked BY Quarter (Example: Working 120 hours during Summer = 4 Credits Summer Enrollment)</i></p> | | | |
| Section 3 Organization for Internship | | | |
| Organization Name: | Factory Farming Awareness Coalition | | |
| Intern Supervisor Name: | Kiely Smith | | |
| Mailing Address: | 1569 Solano Ave, #518 Berkeley, CA 94707 | | |
| Email Address: | kiely@ffacoalition.org | | |
| Phone Number: | (929) 256-2440 | | |

Description of Duties (Or Attach Job Description):

All interns in the program will participate in:

-A robust curriculum, covering the impacts of industrial animal agriculture on social justice, environmental justice, policy, and non-human animals.

-Advocacy training including public speaking, lobbying, and various kinds of political and social advocacy. We prioritize self-care and mental well-being in our work in order to foster a long-term commitment to advocacy.

Section 4 Learning Objectives

What do I intend to learn from this experience:

Through this experience I will gain a foundation of knowledge around animal agriculture and the intersectional environmental justice issues that stem from its practice. I will further develop my communication and presentation skills by participating in advocacy both within and outside of FFAC. This development will also be aided by my responsibility of mentoring a high school student throughout the summer term in their own advocacy work. This internship is completely virtual so I will be building my skills around virtual communication and collaboration as well, working with college and high school interns around the US to support just and sustainable food systems. I will learn how to become involved in local food systems through my project work, in which I will be doing outreach to local cafes about defaulting to plant-based milks in their drinks in an effort to decrease emissions and the environmental damage caused by dairy sources within restaurant supply chains. I will be working with an outside organization, DefaultVeg, in this process, which will help me gain experience in non-profit collaboration. Additionally, I will be publishing a blog post to the FFAC website focused on the Universal School Meals Program Act, which will allow me to research more about current environmental policies and allow me to practice writing in an effective and professional manner. Overall, this internship will provide insight on what it is like to work within an environmental non-profit and how to successfully advocate for environmental efforts.

How does this experience contribute to my educational goals:

As an Environmental Education major, this internship will contribute to my educational goals by providing me with the opportunity to mentor a high school student in their environmental advocacy efforts. This will give me hands-on experience addressing serious systemic issues in a palatable way with high-school students, which is the age group I hope to work with in the future. By providing me with a foundation of knowledge around animal agriculture, I will be learning about a pressing environmental concern that is not only relevant to my Environmental Studies courses, but relevant to any career I pursue during/after college in the environmental space. It will teach me to communicate effectively about food systems and how we can better them. The project work I will do around DefaultVeg and a blog post will provide me opportunities to better my writing, ultimately helping me

in academic settings, and teach me how to do effective community outreach, something that will be prevalent in my work as an Environmental Educator.

If Faculty require any additional Learning Objectives, they should be listed here:

Section 5 - Deadlines, Evaluation, and Assessment (Completed by faculty advisor)

Meet with Advisor: _____

First Draft Due: _____

Final Draft Due: _____

Section 6 Students Certification

I certify that I have read the University Policy on Risk Management Considerations for Student Internships and I will [report](http://www.wvu.edu/bfa/Risk_Mgmt/documents/Internship%20Considerations%20(14).pdf) any injuries suffered while performing internship promptly to WWU. [http://www.wvu.edu/bfa/Risk_Mgmt/documents/Internship%20Considerations%20\(14\).pdf](http://www.wvu.edu/bfa/Risk_Mgmt/documents/Internship%20Considerations%20(14).pdf)

I will endeavor to represent myself and my college well and will abide by the relevant policies, procedures and ethical standards of the university and the internship organization.

I understand that 30-hours of work per credit earned is expected for an internship. I understand that I am expected to enroll in a number of credits commensurate with hours worked each quarter.


**Student s
Signature/Date**

Caroline Burns 8/6/21

Section 7 Internship Site Supervisor Certification

I have reviewed the student's indicated learning objectives and on behalf of my organization agree

- To enrich the student’s knowledge by orienting him/her to the occupation, the work setting, and the responsibilities relating to the assignment
- To regularly evaluate/provide feedback to student on progress, projects and areas of growth
- At or near the completion of the assignment to provide an evaluation of the student’s performance x To review and approve the student’s Learning Plan and communicate with Huxley College if areas are not going to be met.
- To supply the student with and abide the organization’s policy against discrimination and/or harassment in the workplace
- To contact the instructor or the Huxley Internship Coordinator (360) 650-3646, ed.weber@wwu.edu should any problems arise

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| Internship Site Supervisor Signature/Date |  | 8/6/2021 |
|--|---|----------|

Section 8 Faculty Advisor Certification

I certify that the student intern and I have reached agreement on the learning objectives and academic expectations for this experience. These objectives are challenging and enriching to the student's academic and or career goals I will award grades after satisfactory completion of all learning objectives/tasks/reports assigned and load the final internship report onto the Huxley Server.
P:\Huxley\PUBLIC_folders\COLLEGE_OFFICE\Intern_Reports

| | |
|---|--|
| Faculty Advisor’s Signature/Date | |
|---|--|

Section 9 Huxley College Internship Coordinator

Actions:

- 1) Review Agreement
- 2) Update Course Override
- 3) File Agreement in Student Records
- 4) Communicate with Employers as necessary during internship

The Organization

The Factory Farming Awareness Coalition (FFAC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to working toward a just food system. They do so by providing educational opportunities to the public, as well as offering their internship programs each academic term and throughout the summer to high-school and undergraduate students. Additionally, they partner with multiple other non-profit organizations in their pursuit of a just food system, creating a strong sense of community within the activist space.

Why I Chose FFAC

I began my undergraduate years as a Business and Sustainability major, later switching to Environmental Education. I knew the Business track wasn't quite right for me, and though Environmental Education sounded better, I still was not sure what I wanted to do with it. Then, after learning a bit about food systems in my classes, and attending a presentation by one of FFAC's staff, I realized it might be the space for me. In discussing climate change and environmental efforts, it's hard to know where to begin. I found that working toward just food systems also meant tackling issues like environmental racism, pollution, land use, worker's rights, the general health of our population, and more. It seemed like the movement to be in to focus on multiple issues at once, alleviating the stress of trying to choose where to start.

Program Overview

As a College Intern with FFAC I participated in...

- Weekly Zoom meetings with my peers and FFAC staff
- Curriculum designed to educate me on the various issues surrounding Factory Farming
- Meaningful and productive discussions around each lesson, challenging our views and pushing us out of comfort zones
- Workshops around plant-based nutrition, mindfulness, how to be an effective advocate, how to talk to those with differing opinions than you, what working in the non-profit sector looks like, and more to supplement weekly lectures and build our confidence in the activist space
- A high-school mentorship program in which I supported a high school advocate through their project work and learning
- Independent project work that included outreach to local businesses about plant-based eating, presentation practice, writing a blog post, and using the abillion app to spread the fun and learning that comes with plant-based eating

Fulfilling My Original Learning Intentions

Intention: Gain a foundation of knowledge around animal agriculture and the intersectional environmental justice issues that stem from its practice

- Through our weekly meetings I gained a large foundation of knowledge around factory farming and the harms it does to many aspects of society. I was especially able to expand my knowledge on the poor treatment of farmworkers, the true damage factory farming has to our water and air, and the lack of nutrition education in the US/lack of accessibility to nutritious foods.

Intentions: Develop my communication and presentation skills by participating in advocacy both within and outside of FFAC; Build my skills around virtual communication and collaboration

- I became significantly more confident presenting virtually and participating in a virtual workspace through this position. In the beginning I was hesitant to speak, afraid of not being well-informed enough to contribute to discussion. However, by the end even if I was not fully sure of myself I found that I participated a lot in discussion, often dreading the end of it. I found comfort in discomfort, which was aided by the organization's attention to mindfulness practices and encouraging productive discussion around conflicting viewpoints.
- With this, I learned how to effectively communicate virtually, gaining experience with multiple online platforms including the Google Suite and Slack.

Intentions: Learn how to become involved in local food systems through my project work; Gain experience in non-profit collaboration

- I was able to partner with DefaultVeg for my project work and they helped to show me that food systems are something that can be changed largely through community involvement. Even small asks can go a long way. Though I was not successful in implementing anything officially, I do feel like the outreach I did started getting people to think about the impact of factory farming. The main roadblock I've found to getting involved in my community is the fear of the first step, the first call/email I make, but after that it feels so much easier and is very fulfilling.
- I was not only able to collaborate with DefaultVeg, but attended talks from many of FFAC's partners, seeing how nonprofits communicate and can work together toward the same goal even if they have different ways of approaching it.

Intention: Practice writing in an effective and professional manner

- I successfully published a blog article about the Universal School Meals Program act to FFAC's website. This was a new experience as I have never written in such a journalism format before that allowed for some personal voice. I felt I was able to break down a complicated issue in a way that is easy for the general public to understand.

Intention: Be provided insight on what it is like to work within an environmental non-profit and how to successfully advocate for environmental efforts

- My confidence and skills as an advocate improved greatly through this experience. I was also able to communicate closely with the Executive Director of FFAC who shared her journey, which included getting a degree in Environmental Education. It showed me that this is a pathway I can take with my degree, and that it will have many twists and turns within it that will all be learning experiences. The things I learned in this internship are not only applicable to the food justice movement, but to all environmental movements, as all tackle multiple issues and include a variety of voices, all of which are important to listen to and discuss with.

Contribution to My Educational Goals

Goal: Gain hands-on experience addressing serious systemic issues in a palatable way with high-school students (an age group I'm considering working with)

- I was able to mentor high-school students throughout the program. I've been a strong believer for a long time that the youth voice is important and should be heard. Seeing youth truly empowered by the recognition that they do have agency and the ability to make a real difference is inspiring. I enjoy this age group because they are able to engage in complex discussions like those around factory farming and I can see myself working with them in the future. This may not be in a traditional classroom setting, but I think being able to support high-school activists and provide more hands-on opportunities for them would be a cool opportunity.

Goals: Be provided with a foundation of knowledge around animal agriculture (important information for the environmental movement); Learn to communicate effectively about food systems and how we can better them (effective communication is key in advocacy and teaching)

- I have gained a solid foundation around animal agriculture, and feel that I can apply it to many aspects of the environmental movement. I have also learned how to speak about it based on the values of those I am speaking to, which is an important tool in activism and education.

Goal: Have opportunities to better my writing (helps with community outreach)

- Challenging myself to write in a way I haven't before was a great learning experience. It is nice to know a piece I wrote on an issue I care about is published online. It is not perfect, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity and believe it has helped me in the process of breaking down complex subjects so they are easier for the general public to understand.

Conclusion

I am grateful for the time I have spent interning for the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition. I have built lasting connections and have felt what it is like to work in a space with a team that truly cares about the well-being of its staff and their future. It has taught me many things about the important issue of food justice that are often overlooked in discussion about the environment. It has given me the skills to be an effective advocate, engaged community member, and a confident teacher. This development has been supported by my coursework. I was able to take an Agroecology course at WWU that overlapped a lot with what I learned at FFAC, though through a more policy-heavy focus. Having both the lens of such a course and the lens of FFAC is helpful in bridging the gap between academia and community education. I have seen the many paths I can take in Environmental Education, and though I am not sure yet where it will take me, my coursework and internship have made me excited about the journey.