EYE 129, The Chicken Course
Fall 2013

What if….?   **Campus Chickens Project**

This assignment requires that you work in small teams to ask and answer key questions related to keeping a small flock of chickens on campus.

Process
1. Once you are assigned to a team, meet with team members and identify key questions and issues to address. Brainstorm about how you will go about answering your team's questions. What other teams do you need information from to do your portion?
2. Decide on work strategy and, if necessary, a division of labor and assignments for team members
3. Consult with Professor Sanford and Professor Laz to review questions and strategy.
4. Begin investigation.
4. Meet or confer with team members (this can be done electronically, or before/after class) periodically while gathering information.
5. Meet as a team to prepare recommendations and report (or other final product).
6. Submit a team recommendation, report or other final product, and any necessary supporting documentation. Include how you project your assignment down into its components, how you researched the answers, what the big issues/challenges are.

Teams and sample questions
1. Permit team
> What municipal ordinances and/or campus rules and regulations are relevant to this project?
> How do we get approval from USM?
> Do Gorham ordinances or campus rules restrict/guide what is possible?

2. Coop location and design team
> What factors or criteria should be considered in deciding where to locate a shelter/coop?
> Does it matter if the shelter/coop is for broilers (meat birds) or laying hens?
> Where on the Gorham campus could /should a chicken coop be located?
> What are the criteria for good coop design?
> Are the criteria the same for meat birds and for laying hens?
> What's the optimal design for a flock of 24 laying hens? 24 broilers?
> What would it cost (approximate) to build an adequate coop?

3. Chicken choice team
> What are the best varieties for laying hens? What conditions/variables should be considered?
> What are the best breeds for producing meat? What variables should be considered?
> What's the best way to get a flock started?
> Is it best to buy fertile eggs and incubate them? Buy day-old chicks or older birds (pullets)?
> Where should one get eggs, chicks or pullets?
> What factors need to be considered in deciding where to get eggs, chicks, or pullets?
> How much will eggs, chicks, or pullets cost?

4. Feed team

      What do laying hens need for food and good nutrition?

      Do chickens raised for meat (Broilers) have different nutritional needs?

      Do food needs change depending on the age of the chick/chicken?

      Where can/should we buy/get food? Can they eat cafeteria scraps?

      How much will it cost per week to feed a flock of 24 laying hens? 24 broilers?

      Where do we store the food?

5. Financial team

      What would it cost to build a coop, and to start and sustain a flock of laying hens?

      What would it cost to build a coop, and to start and sustain a flock of broilers?

      Where could money come from to support such a project?

      Are there other (non-monetary) resources that could be used (eg. solicit donations and materials
            for building a coop)? If so, what resources and where would they
               come from?

6. Egg and products team

      What could be done with any eggs produced by campus chickens?

      Could they be sold? Are there any regulations or rules that govern the selling of eggs?

      Could they be used in campus dining halls?

      If we raised broilers, how and where would the birds be slaughtered/processed?

      If we had layer chickens what would we do when they got old?

      What could be done with the meat?

      Could it be sold? If so, are there any regulations governing the sale of meat?

      Could it be used in campus dining halls?

7. Publicity team

      How could the project be publicized in its early stages, to attract funding or other support?

      How could the project be publicized once it's established?

      What aspects of the project would we want to highlight?

      How do we get students involved?

      What media could be used?

      Should we hold a "Campus Chickens" discussion at the end of the semester—with
            invited guests—to discuss results of the project? If so, who should be invited?