


FINAL EVALUATION REPORT		
Project Name: WSCC Farm Unit		
Project Number: SATS 40		
Start Date: 31/05/07	Finish Date: 31/03/08	

Introduction and Scope

1. This Final Evaluation Report requires **West Somerset Community College** to provide a report on the success or otherwise of the **WSCC Farm Unit Project** in achieving its stated aims and objectives. It moves beyond the scope of the Quarterly Progress Reports already completed for each claim, by reviewing the wider impact of the project. Please refer to the guidance notes.

Project Aims and Objectives

2. Please provide a brief narrative summary of the project's success or otherwise in achieving its broad aims and objectives as given in your original application and your M&E plans as appropriate. Describe how you achieved them, and if you didn't achieve some of them please explain why.

Project Outputs

3. The agreed Outputs for the **WSCC Farm Unit Project** are set out below. Please report on the progress the project has made in achieving these Outputs.

To build a first class training facility which meets the training needs of both young people and adults in the land based sector in West Somerset

The College has leased an additional 17 acres and building work has commenced on the new Land Based training block, and is scheduled to complete August 2008. The project has considerably expanded in scope, and will now provide a purpose built Land Based training block in addition to the original agricultural and horticultural facilities.

To address the skills gap in the land based sector in an isolated rural area experiencing significant social and economic deprivation

The College is developing partnerships with SCC Learning & Skills and with Land Based employers to ensure maximum take-up of the excellent new training provision on offer.

To make training accessible across a 600 square mile rural catchment area and provide progression routes for students wishing to progress to higher education in land based studies

The take up of Land Based courses has doubled in the current year, and the College is also working with LANTRA (the Land Based Training Agency) and other partners to meet the identified training needs of adults working in the Land Based sector.

To provide an enhanced range of land based courses from entry level to level 3 ('A' level)

The College will be offering new entry level courses in Horticulture and Land and Environment from Sept 2008, to allow less academic students to access Land Based Studies. Eighteen students are already following courses in Agriculture, Animal Management and Countryside and Environment at Level 3, with larger cohorts on Level 2 courses who will progress in future years.

4. Outputs Summary Table.

Output Type	Target total All years	Total achieved to date (31 March 08)	Future years (08-09)
1	1	2	2
1a	2	2	0
2	20	5	15
4a	40	10	30
5	£200,000	£1,192.5	£900,000
6	362	63	299
11	1	0	1
11b	2	0	2
12	6	1	5
13	2739	243	2496

5. Report on Outputs Progress:

The rapidly increasing demand for Land Based courses means that the College has already appointed two additional teachers, and will be appointing a further teacher and a junior farm-hand for September 2008. The creation of the new training facility has also ensured the continued employment of the two existing Land Based staff, whose posts would otherwise have been at risk.

The College is working in close partnership with local Land Based businesses both in the delivery of training and of work experience placements. Two students have already secured employment with their work experience businesses, and three more are progressing to higher education in Land Based subjects next year.

The range of Land Based courses has already been expanded to include three Level 3 courses, and will also include entry level courses from next September, to create progression routes for less academic students.

The College is in dialogue with both SCC Learning & Leisure and with LANTRA to make the new facilities available for adult training, and to provide training opportunities for local Land Based businesses. The Head of Land Based Studies is the South West Regional Rural Dimension Co-ordinator and networks extensively with other training providers to ensure that best practice is widely disseminated.

The equipment and resources provided by Rural Renaissance have enabled the College to start delivering new courses in the current academic year, rather than having to wait for the completion of the new buildings in September 2008. It has also helped the College to attract a substantially increased match funding package, and the project will now deliver nearly £1 million of capital investment, largely from outside the region.

The project has already enabled 60 students to achieve Land Based qualifications, and these numbers will increase steadily as students who are now able to start on entry level, Level 1 and Level 2 courses pre 16, progress to post 16 courses. Many of the students who are now achieving level 3 qualifications would never have progressed to this level in a traditional academic subject.

The new facilities - the barn, greenhouse, and the training block – are now scheduled for completion at the end of August 2008. Current usage figures relate to activities on the new

site, which include stock handling duties, estate skills and woodland management. These will increase significantly in September with the opening of the new facilities.

Project Outcomes

6. The agreed Outcomes for the **WSCC Farm Unit Project** are set out below. Please report on the progress the project has made in achieving these Outcomes, including, if relevant, detail of how the project overcame unforeseen difficulties in relation to delivering these Outcomes:

7. Outcomes.

Outcomes Summary Table:	
Outcome	Progress on Achievement
Level 3 qualifications and progression to Higher education	Initial indications are extremely positive (as above) and the College expects to easily achieve its target of 40 Land Based students achieving a level 3 Land Based qualification by 2012
Entry level courses for less academic and underachieving students	The first two entry level courses will run in September 2008, but it is already clear that Land Based courses are extremely valuable in motivating students who underachieve on traditional courses. This should be reflected in a steady increase in numbers achieving a Level 2 qualification in future years, and will greatly increase the employability of these students.
Employment related skills	The range of Land Based courses that the College can now offer, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Countryside and Environment and Animal Management will open up a wide range of progression routes into skilled employment.
Environmental Sustainability	This is a key focus of all Land Based courses, and the new training block will provide a model of sustainable design which can be studied in its own right. The College also hopes to develop a local food project in the new facilities.

Wider Impact

8. Please comment on the wider impact of the project across the region/area. Please also report on any evidence that you may not already have used.

9. Commentary on the Project's Wider Impact:

The College works closely with the School Farms Network, the Specialist Schools and Academies Rural Dimension Network, and with other training providers and Land Based businesses and regularly hosts training days and provides speakers for conferences. Learning from the project is therefore widely disseminated, and it is attracting considerable interest.

Ongoing Sustainability

10. Where relevant, please report on the ongoing sustainability of the facility/service delivered by this project. Where project completion also represents the termination of a service delivered by the project funding, this section is not applicable.

11. Review of Ongoing Sustainability.

The project will attract revenue funding from the Learning & Skills Council as well as from adult learning to cover teaching costs. It is, however, run as a working farm and will therefore generate sufficient income to cover operating costs. The College is also developing proposals to significantly extend the project's role in delivering statutory courses for Land Based businesses from across the region which will create a further income stream.

Publicity

12. Please report on any key publicity undertaken. You should make specific reference to any SWRDA/Somerset Rural Renaissance inclusion in any publicity. Please include copies of any publicity materials or indicate if already provided.

13. Report on Publicity Undertaken.

Examples of publicity materials are already on file. The project has attracted good press coverage and has also been the subject of reports in various specialist journals. Rural Renaissance funding has also been acknowledged on both internal and external publicity boards in various public locations. Progress reports have also been given to numerous conferences and meetings with partner organisations, Land Based trainers and businesses, and other rural stakeholders.

The Project Experience

14. Please report on the project experience overall. Please indicate what you would do differently in future and in addition include anything else you think will help to show how you spent Rural Renaissance funding eg letters of support from beneficiaries, businesses or users, other reports etc. You should consider including lessons learned that could be disseminated to other Organisations delivering related projects or those using a similar delivery model. Please also include suggestions as to how relationships between your organisation and the beneficiaries of the project and also your organisation and Somerset Rural Renaissance could be improved/revised. This will help inform our thinking on future funding programmes.

15. Review of Project Experience.

It has been quite challenging to keep this complex project moving at the pace required by its various funders. Delivering the sustainable design features had also proved quite expensive and this has created additional time pressures as the project had to be resubmitted to planning.

The project will provide a great showcase for rural activities and it would be good to be able

to host a Rural Renaissance event, or at least a display, or maybe do the rural regeneration equivalent of the Great Somerset Arts Adventure (hire a coach and all visit a selection of each other's projects)? We hope that we can further develop our partnership with Rural Renaissance once the new facilities are open in the autumn.

It is early days for this project to provide feedback from beneficiaries, but the project is generating very considerable interest within the Land Based sector, and is already being widely disseminated as a model for the development of Land Based training and of wider education outside the classroom.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contained in this claim and supporting document/s is true and accurate.

Signed		Date	
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Name in Block Capitals	
Position in Organisation	
Organisation Name	
Telephone Number	
E-mail	