

October 25th, 2020: Inspection of the USDA funded SOULA (Sustainable, Optimized Urban and Latino-driven Agriculture) Chicken Coop located at the College Area Community Garden (CACG).

This report was written and produced by one of the Principal Investigators, Prof. John Love, who due to the Covid 19 pandemic, has been the single, sole, and only caretaker of the 9 chickens involved in this project. Dr. Love has been the sole caretaker for 7 months now, since approximately March 16th, 2020. Dr. Love has visited the chicken coop/run every single day since this project commenced, not missing as much as one single day. He actually visited the chicken coop multiple times per day during the heat-waves that occurred during summer 2020, just to insure that the chickens were in good health, and had enough water during heat waves.

Everyday Dr. Love checks on the two dry food containers, the water containers, feeds the chickens dry insects, cleans their excrement off of the roosts they use every night, and visually inspects the chickens for physical health.

Chickens Physical Health:

All 9 chickens are in absolute stellar physical health. They are all approximately the same weight/size appropriate for their breed. They are all very healthy, very active, vocalize significantly, have luxurious plumage, clean and healthy feet, and are all very clear eyed.

Proof of the Chickens Exceptional Health:

Fairly quickly after the chickens started laying eggs, back in June 2020, they have averaged an egg production rate of 1 egg per chicken per day. The estimate of the total daily egg production of the coop is approximately 8.7 eggs per day from the 9 chickens.

Consistent Feeding Regimen:

The coop consists of two sections that divide the ample coop and spacious runs so that each set of chickens are divided into the two groups (4 on one side and 5 on the other) with more than sufficient room for all chickens. On each side of the divided coop there is an approximately 4-gallon container that is used to hold and constantly provide dry chicken feed (Purina 'crumble' fortified with oyster shells) for *ad libitum* feeding of the chickens. Therefore, since their birth, these animals have never gone one single day without ample food and water available to them. The feed containers are checked every day. When the containers volume gets down to approximately 1/3 full Dr. Love fills the container up to about ¾ full. This occurs approximately once per week.

Consistent Watering Regimen:

On both sides of the divided coop there are 5-gallon containers (one per side) that are used to hold and provide fresh water for *ad libitum* water consumption for the chickens. These water containers are checked every single day. When the containers volume gets down to 1/4 full, Dr. Love empties both containers, vigorously cleans the containers with soap and water, and then refills the container up all the way with fresh water. This occurs approximate once per week.

Vegetable Feeding Regimen:

Approximately every 4-5 days the chickens' diets are supplemented with a mixture of chopped fresh apples, chopped fresh broccoli, and chopped fresh carrots. The chickens appear to prefer the apples the most, then the broccoli, and then the carrots.

Insect Feeding Regimen:

Both sets of chickens get one cupful of dry Black Soldier fly larvae (BSFL) each day. All chickens devour these dry insects voraciously. They all go in to the coop to drink water afterwards. When

available, the group of four chickens receive live BSFL which have been cultured on wet grains and leftover human food scraps (on par with composting).

Prior to Covid 19 quarantine, there were three Environmental Science undergraduate students whose EnvS 498A/B project was to build the necessary facilities, obtain and take care of the chickens, and run the proposed experiments. There are currently no students working with Dr. Love on this project.

In June 2020 it was ascertained that one of the chickens was a rooster. As the chickens are not housed on SDSU property they are subject to San Diego zoning laws which state that it is not legal to own a rooster within residential San Diego neighborhoods. Therefore, the rooster was adopted out to an expert chicken/rooster individual who lives in North County San Diego.

Below and on the following pages are a series of images that provide visible representation of the healthy chickens and the professionally built SOULA chicken coop that is located out at the College Area Community Garden.











