

Draft Horse Trailer Proposal

Paul Smith's College Draft Horse Club

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Total Amount Requested

\$2,160

Abstract

In the fall of 2011, Jacob Shultz and Alexandria Barner of the Paul Smith's College Draft Horse Club submitted a proposal to the Campus Sustainability Fund requesting funding for the purchase of horse drawn agricultural equipment. The proposal included the purchase of a Farm Forecart (Standard Draft), a Sulky Plow, a Manure Spreader, a Sulky Cultivator, a Riding Disc Harrow, a John Deer Seeder, a Sulky Sickle Bar Mower, and a Hay Tedder. The proposal was approved in the 2011/2012 Fund Proposal Cycle and the equipment was purchased soon thereafter.

<http://www.paulsmiths.edu/sustainability/files/Draft%20Horse%20Agricultural%20Equipment%20Proposal.pdf>

Since the purchase of the horse drawn agricultural equipment, several of the Draft Horse Club members have become very proficient in their use. The equipment has been used to plow and cultivate Gould's Garden, as well as pasture areas surrounding the PSC Horse Barn Complex. In addition, manure has been spread throughout the horse pastures and seed purchased for cultivation this fall. As written into the 2011 Campus Sustainability Proposal, the Club had hoped (and was given permission) to utilize the area off campus known as The Old Boy Scout Camp to cultivate and harvest hay as a means of augmenting the horses' food supply. This has been accomplished to a certain extent, but not to the Club's satisfaction. The area is cluttered with log piles, wood debris, and equipment, which has made our efforts difficult. Our hope is to have the problem resolved over the next several months, so that the Club can move forward in the spring.

Recently, members of the PSC Draft Horse Club and the College Draft Horses (Fee and Lady) traveled to Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont to participate in a Draft Animal Plowing and Driving Competition. In addition, several pieces of equipment that were purchased through the Campus Sustainability Fund were used at the event. The Club hopes to participate in similar events in the future; however, the most limiting factor in participating in using the horses and equipment for off-site events is the extreme difficulty in borrowing or renting an appropriate sized horse trailer to transport our horses.

Paul Smith's College is one of a very few higher education institutions that offer Draft Horse Programs as well as the distinction of having an established Draft Horse program in place for over four decades. Sustainable Agriculture and the art of driving a team of draft horses as done by our ancestors has become somewhat of a lost art. As more college institutions embrace the concept of Sustainable practices - specifically Sustainable Agricultural practices - the Paul Smith's College Draft Horse Program is in the forefront in regards to academic institutions. Utilization of the college draft horses in sustainable agriculture, community events, intercollegiate events, as well as current forestry / horse logging exercises helps establish a wider range of use for this College resource. Again, the limiting factor in allowing for off-site use of the College horses is our ability, or inability, to safely transport them from site to site. We are limited to having the horses travel short distances only as the amount of energy they exert going to a site lessens the amount of work they can safely be expected to perform before having to return to campus. Having access to a horse trailer will enable this valuable asset to be utilized to their fullest potential.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this proposal is to (1) Procure funding necessary to purchase an appropriate sized horse trailer for the PSC Draft Horses, (2) Promote carbon neutral farming practices through extension and outreach in support of President John Mills' pledge to the *American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment*, (3) Increase the financial sustainability of the PSC Draft Horse Program, and (4) Enable the College draft horses to be utilized by multiple academic departments in off-site educational programs, intercollegiate events, logging / agricultural demonstrations, and community outreach initiatives.

Goal Statement

1. Obtain Equipment – purchase a horse trailer that will fulfill the need to safely transport the College draft horses to off-site destinations.
2. Utilize sustainable horse power – demonstrate the wide array of tasks a team of draft horses can perform; both in forestry and agriculture.
3. Promote localized carbon neutral agricultural – help Paul Smith's College Draft Horse Program promote sustainability by demonstrating low impact, carbon neutral farming methods both locally, and regionally.
4. Educate students and the public at large by providing educational programs and demonstrations of techniques and implications of animal power.

Impact Statement

The intended outcome of this proposal is to enable the PSC Draft Horse Program to safely transport the College Draft Horses off-site for use in educational programs, animal powered workshops,

intercollegiate events, logging /agricultural demonstrations, and / or community outreach. In the past, the Draft Horse Club has participated in demonstrations and workshops through: the Draft Animal Power Network /DAPNet (<http://www.draftanimalpower.org/home/dapnet/>), the Local Living Festival in Canton, NY (<http://www.sustainablelivingproject.net/local-living-festival>), draft animal workshops at The Farm School in Massachusetts (<http://www.farmschool.org/>), as well as Draft Animal Plowing Workshops through DAPNet at We-Li-Kit Farm in Abington, CT (spring events). DAPNet has been quite vigilant in recruiting Paul Smith's College and our Draft Horse Program to become more active in their association as we have a well-established, successful draft animal program which they consider a model for other academic institutions. Our goal is to have the ability to actively demonstrate and promote the use of draft horses in sustainable agricultural practices through events held by these organizations - having our own horse trailer will enable the Club to safely transport the PSC horses to various events hosted by these organizations.

Resources

Professor Brett McLeod (Program Director- School of Natural Resource Management & Ecology; Head Coach- PSC Woodsmen's Team; Co-Advisor -PSC Draft Horse Club) and Barn Manager Robert Brhel have assisted in determining the appropriate size and style of horse trailer best suited to transport the College draft Horses. Professor McLeod has located a used 2012 Calico Stock 2 Horse Slant Load Horse Trailer for sale in Leicester, CT for \$4,000. He has made contact with the seller to indicate our possible interest in purchasing the unit. If the unit is no longer available when and if we are able to purchase, an appropriate substitute of comparable cost and value will be procured.

Documentation and Permissions

Jeffrey Walton, Dean- School of Natural Resource Management & Ecology, has appropriated \$1000 from the Draft Horse Restricted Fund (Alumni Council) towards the purchase, and has determined that NRME will be responsible for the maintenance and registration of the horse trailer. In addition, requests for its use will be handled by Dean Walton.

Budget

Calico 2012 Stock 2 Horse Slant Load Horse Trailer with Dressing Area	\$4,000
Use of Forestry Division Truck to haul Horse Trailer back to PSC (~290 Miles)	\$160

The Draft Horse Club has committed to contribute club funds in the amount of \$1000 towards the purchase of a horse trailer. In addition, the Club has been granted a \$1000 matching contribution from the Draft Horse Dedicated Account administered by Dean Jeff Walton through the Alumni Council. This reduces the Campus Sustainability funding request to \$2,160.





Timeline

Once a decision has been made in regards to funding, contact will be made with the seller to indicate our decision to purchase the Calico 2012 Stock 2 Horse Slant Load Horse Trailer. If the trailer is still available for purchase at that time, arrangements for payment will be made and a trip to collect the trailer will be scheduled. Professor McLeod has indicated that he would be willing to drive to Connecticut to bring the horse trailer back to Paul Smith's once arrangements for its purchase have been secured. Our hope is to have the horse trailer at Paul Smith's College by mid-November.

Outcomes

Again, Paul Smith's College is one of a very few colleges that offer Draft Horse Programs as well as the distinction of having an established Draft Horse program in place for over four decades. The use of draft animals in Sustainable Agricultural practices has seen resurgence in the past several years and as a direct result, the Draft Horse Club has had an increase in requests for participation in draft animal power workshops, demonstrations, and events. With greater mobility, the Club will increase its ability to participate in various regional draft animal power events with our draft horse team in an effort to promote sustainable agricultural practices. Success will be measured by the increase in the number of off-site events the PSC Draft Horses participate in and can be shared with the campus community through the Draft Horse Club and the Campus Sustainability Office.