School of Environment and Natural Resources

New Roots Institute College Fellowship
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Background

About New Roots Institute
Formally Factory Farming Awareness Coalition, New Roots Institute is an organization whose mission is to end commercial factory farming for a more just and sustainable food system through a focus on education and empowerment to advocate for systemic change.

Location
New Roots Institute is based out of Los Angeles; however, this was a remote internship.

How did I find this fellowship?
I found this internship through the Idealist website.

What my days looked like

Daily Schedule at New Roots
- Meet on zoom 12pm-4pm (ET) Tuesday’s, Wednesday’s, Thursday’s
- Tuesday and Thursday:
  - First hour: Core Seminar—Typically updates and a presentation from a guest speaker
  - Second hour: Meet with small discussion group and lead educator for that day’s readings
  - Third and Fourth Hours: Elective hours (differing topics each day, an informative lesson/discussion)
- Wednesday:
  - First Hour: Updates/FAQ
  - Second Hour: Meet with small organizing team (fellows in same region)
  - Third Hour: Meet with the people in our community or who go to the same university
  - Opportunity to meet interns in-person
- Planned a tour of Sunrise Sanctuary in Marysville, Ohio where I got to meet another intern and my small organizing team director

Small Organizing Team
My small organizing team of individuals who go to Ohio State was made up of three people (including myself). The point of these meetings every Wednesday was to make a detailed action plan for either giving a lesson or for some kind of project that could be implemented in our campus or community. My group focused on the implementation of DefaultVeg (a project to make vegan options the default with no additional cost). Hopefully, this theoretical action plan can be practiced soon!

Doing an internship remotely
With this internship being remote, I was a little worried that it would be harder to work with the other fellows as a team, but the 3-4 hour zoom meetings Tuesday through Thursday offered plenty of time to work closely with one another and make several personal connections.

My Advice

- Go to as many elective hours as possible—they are so interesting, informative, and INSPIRING
- Speak up and speak your mind during discussions
- Connect with the other college fellows and lead educators
- Go to in-person meet ups if you can
- Immerse yourself in the readings and content
- Have an OPEN MIND!
- If necessary, work a part-time job along with completing this fellowship, as it is unpaid apart from a small stipend

What’s Next
Although I am unable to continue an internship with New Roots, I plan on taking what I learned to be a better activist and work towards a more sustainable food system.

Acknowledgements
I worked with such a great and compassionate team and am so grateful for the amount I learned from everyone I connected with!