Examples of Experiential Learning in Animal Agriculture

F. E. Robinson
Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Presentation Objective:

Think about your curriculum…
Where you could fit in small or large experiential learning opportunities?

Introductory Animal Agriculture Class

- Build community (warm up first year)
- Focus on awareness (not just education)
- Focus on context (not just content)
- Focus on inquiry
- Encourage creativity
- Involve oral and written communication
- Involve group work

Project Examples

- Name that tool / technology
- There’s a Heifer in Your Tank
- Rural Café
- Game of Farm Life

Name That Tool











Name that Tool

Familiarization with Equipment Used in Animal Agriculture

Nipple Valve

Janet VanDenBerg
AN SC 200

DESCRIPTION

- has a trigger pin at one end, and an opening for water to flow from the pipe at the other end.
- there is a hook on one side so the valve can be snapped onto a water pipe
- Many of these valves will be hooked on a water pipe across the length of a barn

FUNCTION

- Provides drinking water to growing poultry
- Mostly used for broilers, though larger valves for larger birds are available
- With young birds, the water pipe is placed at eye level –birds push the trigger pin in from the side, so only a little water is released
- When the birds are older, the pipe is raised overhead-more water released when pin is pushed from underneath

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT USING

- Slower growth rate if birds are dehydrated
- Increased mortality if birds are dehydrated

ALTERNATIVES TO ITS USE

- trough or bell-type waterers can be used, and are often used for larger birds such as turkeys

BUT…

- Nipple valves are more sanitary
- Nipple valves are more efficient, as less water is spilled and wasted
- Less spread of bacteria with nipple valves- means healthier birds than with trough feeders

Name that Technology


THERE'S A HEIFER
U of A
IN YOUR TANK
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT
ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

HIYT Project Plan

- Students were randomly formed into groups of 2-6
- Student were instructed to provide an answer to a “quirky” question, in a 3.5 min presentation
- Students were encouraged to be creative in delivery
- A public forum was held with 300-700 people present

?

If your car burned methane, how far could you travel on the methane from one cow?

(there's a heifer in your tank)

Why do cattle eat their placenta? Do they like the taste or is it peer pressure?

Do double-yolked eggs arise when hens are mated twice per day?


PRIVATE
PRIVATE
PRIVATE
PRIVATE

HIYT Presentation Evolution (2004-2020)

- Powerpoint (Scientific format)
- Powerpoint with humor
- Original drama productions
- You-Tube Videos (documentaries, spoofs, music videos)

Hosting an In-Class “Rural Café”: Employing Agricultural Speed Dating to Build Ag Fluency

Project Outline:

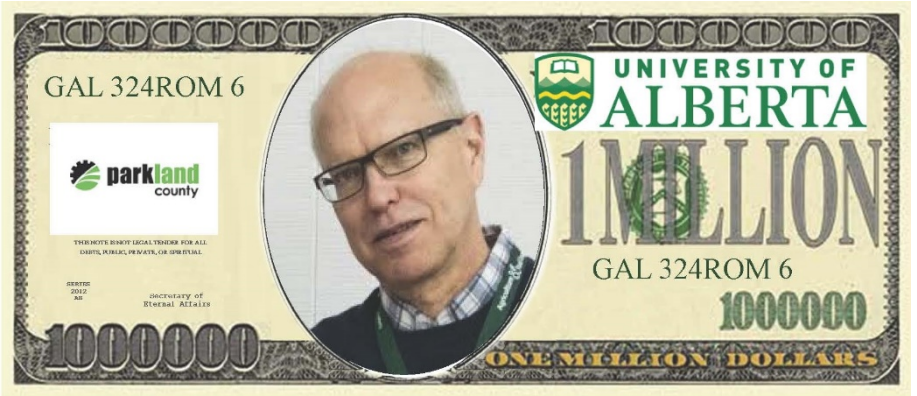
- Six or more Alberta animal producers were invited to attend the rural café each day. Several producers brought other family members.
- At each lab session (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) each student was randomly assigned to six table groups (four to six students per group).

Project Outline:

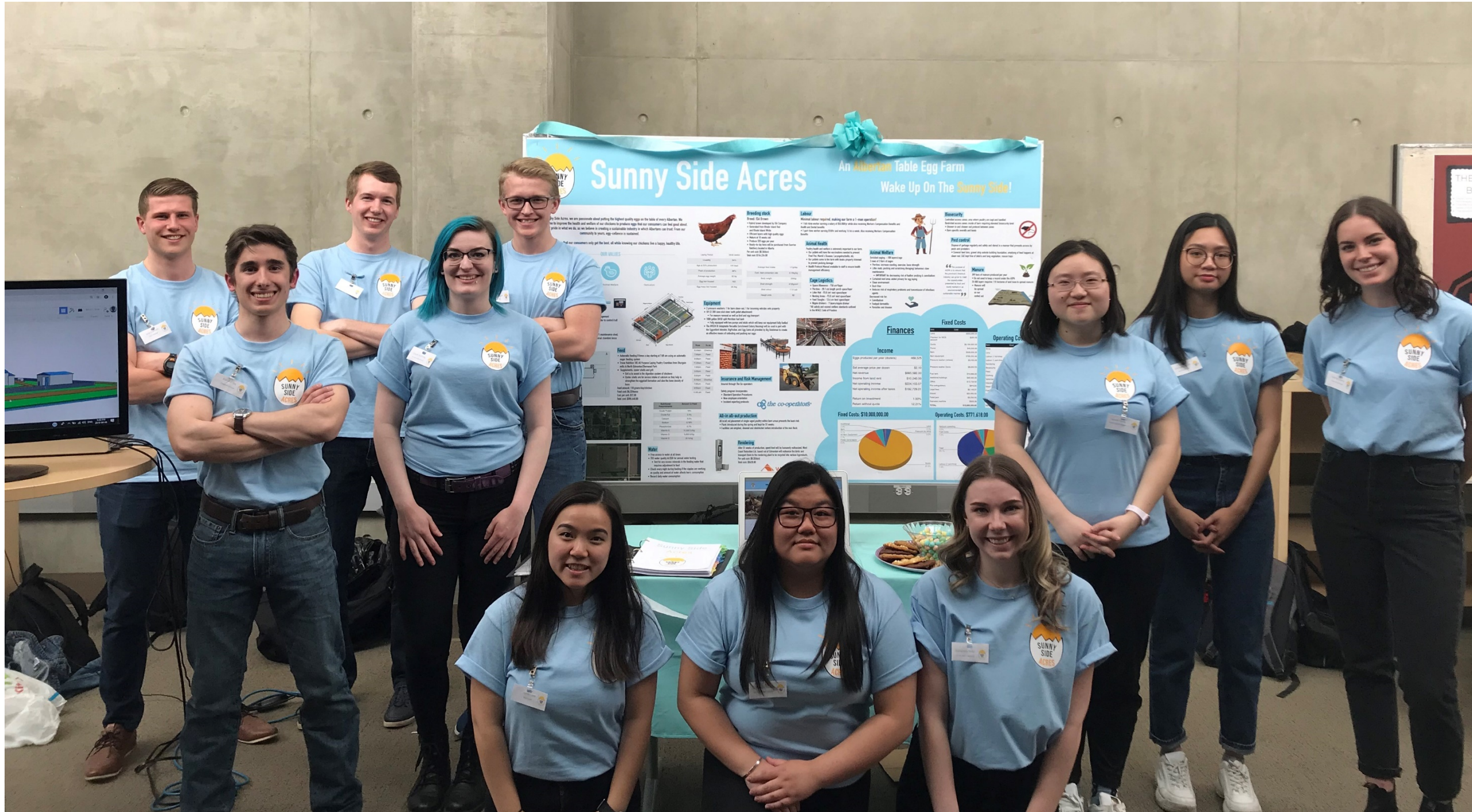
- Each farmer was seated at a table with chairs for six students. Each group of students had 25 minutes to engage in conversation with a producer. At 30 minute intervals, each group of students rotated so that by the end of the afternoon, each student group had a chance to meet with six producers.
- The students prepared a list of potential questions for the producers, around the general topic of "**what makes or breaks your operation**"?


FARM
THE GAME OF
LIFE

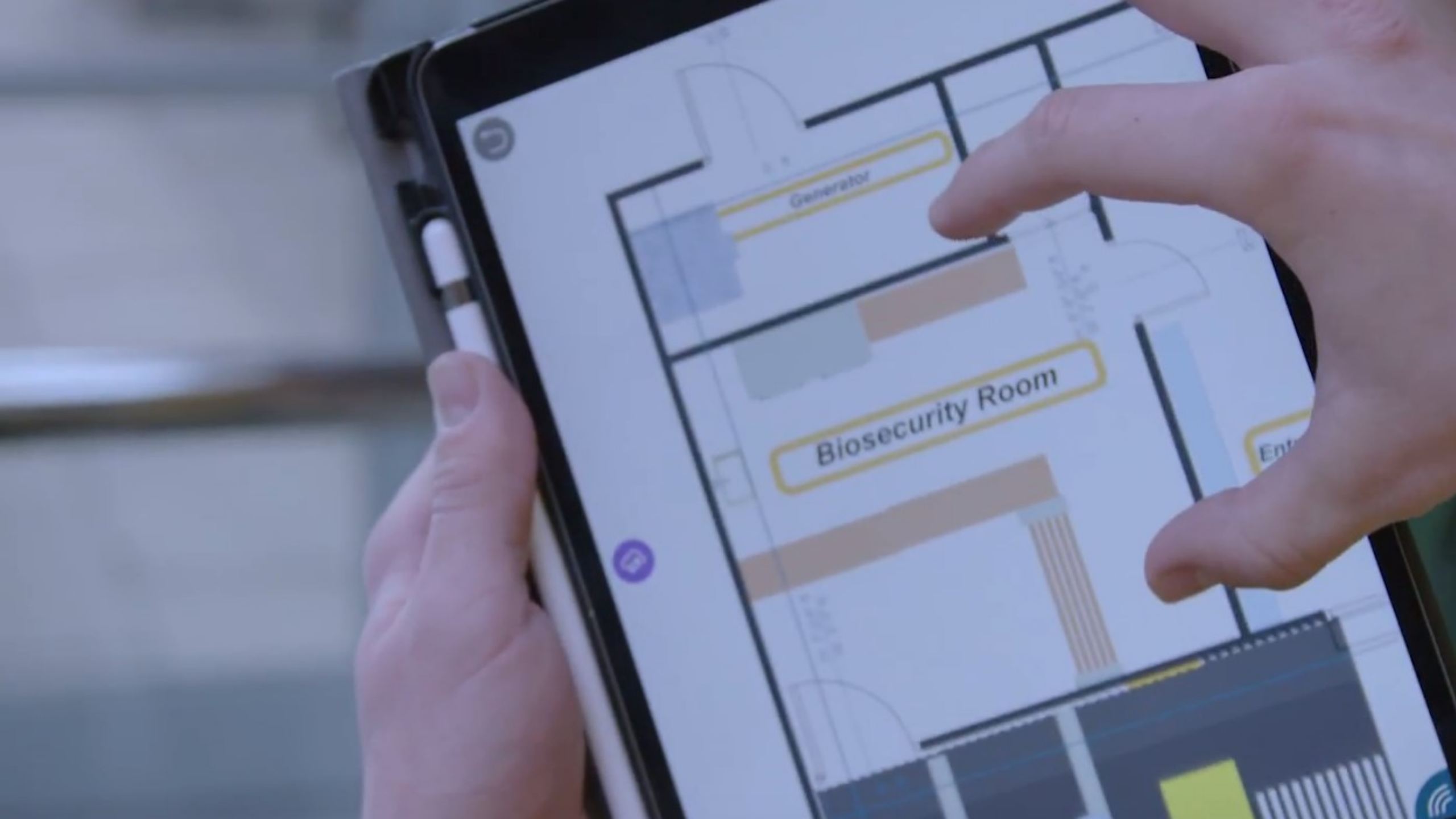
Project Rules:



- Groups of 8-12 students were given **$10,000,000** (fake cash).
- The mission of the project was to develop a farm for that commodity with the money given to them.
- Each group had to buy land, build barns, perhaps buy quota, buy breeding stock, insurance, permits etc.
- Each student must have a position on the team.
- Each person must describe their job description with the group so that together they can cover off all of the needed areas.


Sunny Side Acres
An Albertan Table Egg Farm
Wake Up On The Sunny Side!
Finances
Income
Fixed Costs
Fixed Costs: $10,000,000.00
Operating Costs: $771,618.00
the co-operators


BenQ


Generator
Biosecurity Room

Thank You

frank.robinson@ualberta.ca