OUR MISSION
To serve the Commonwealth of Kentucky by providing knowledge and information that will assist in solving social and economic issues and problems related to agriculture, resources, food and fiber industries, and rural economies important to the state, region and international community. This will be accomplished through research, resident instruction, and extension.

GOAL 1
Prepare Students for Leadership in an Innovation-Driven Economy and Global Society

Most Significant Challenges
Agricultural Economics has experienced significant undergraduate enrollment growth during the last several years; additional undergraduate enrollment will not be possible without additional faculty instructional DOE. The graduate program is too small, underfunded, and needs proportionately more domestic students.

Strategies
- Develop plans and actions to integrate experiential education into the curriculum.
- Aggressively promote student participation in personal and professional development opportunities beyond the classroom, including student research, student and professional organization membership, international travel experience, and internships.
- Increase opportunities for distance learning.
- Increase faculty recognition for excellence in academic and extracurricular advising.
- Implement incentives for leveraging graduate student financial support with grant funds.
- Implement the University graduation agreements to enhance timely graduation of students.

Key Indicators by 2014:
1. Entering MS students’ average GRE’s will be 950 or higher.
2. At least 50% of MS students will have a paper or poster by the time they graduate.
3. 75% of full-time MS students will graduate in 2 years.
4. Track (MS & PhD graduates) employed in a university, government, private sector, those who return to home countries and those who are underemployed or unemployed.
5. Maintain total MS student number at 25 or less (but near 25) while recruiting both high quality in- and out-of-state prospects.
6. Keep PhD enrollment at more than 25 high quality students.
7. PhD entrants’ average GRE will be 1052 or higher.
8. 100% of our PhD students will have a presentation at a professional meeting or,
publication submitted or published before they graduate.

9. Our PhD's will be candidates (have finished the agriculture qualifying exam) 30 months into the program.

10. 80% of our PhD students will graduate from the program within four years.

11. We will have completed the PhD program curriculum revision and have the new 700-level classes in place.

12. 75% or more of entering freshmen and transfers will graduate within five years of entering UK.

13. 10% or more of undergraduates will have an internship or independent study by the time they graduate.

14. Obtain an exit survey from at least 50% of our seniors.

15. The Learning Outcomes Assessment process will be fully implemented.

GOAL 2
Promote Research and Creative Work to Increase the Intellectual, Social and Economic Capital of Kentucky and the World Beyond its Borders

Most Significant Challenges
❖ Repeated budget cuts have capped faculty expansion and created key vacancies.

Strategies
➢ Aggressively pursue extramural research funding from all sources.
➢ Review the College’s “Targets of Opportunity” to identify research where cutting-edge science and critical mass exist to enhance national and international prominence.

Key Indicators by 2014:
1. Publication of at least three refereed journal articles per research FTE per year.
2. Grant expenditures will be $700,000 or more each year.

GOAL 3
Develop the Department’s Human and Physical Resources to Achieve Top 20 Stature

Most Significant Challenges
❖ Many national metrics are size-dependent. We are a mid-size department.
❖ National rankings in most agricultural economics departments are of limited validity.
❖ Retention and compensation of highly skilled staff remains a challenge.
❖ Recruitment, retention or development of faculty at the most distinguished level (e.g., academy-level) remains severely limited by budget cuts.

Strategies
➢ The department will strive to recruit, develop and retain nationally distinguished faculty.
- We will opportunistically seek out resources to recruit exceptional mid-career faculty who bring elevated recognition and leadership to the department.
- We will continue our plan for professional development and mentoring of new faculty.
- We will continue reviewing and improving evaluation and coaching procedures, with appropriate rewards, that match performance expectations for all employees.
- Pursue increased resources for high-quality research, instructional, and service programs.
- Students will be mentored in undergraduate and graduate research projects and we will submit quality papers for University, regional, and national competitions.
- We will recruit and equip student teams for competitions.

**Key Indicators by 2014:**
1. At least two undergraduate or graduate papers, theses, or dissertations will be submitted for consideration in regional or national competitions each year.
2. We will maintain active mentoring committees for all non-tenured faculty.
3. We will have teaching, research, and extension awards received by faculty annually.

**GOAL 4**
Promote Diversity and Inclusion (diversity committees)

**Most Significant Challenges**
- Undergraduate female enrollment is low.
- Undergraduate student body has limited experience with diversity.

**Strategies**
- Actively recruit students, faculty, and staff from underrepresented groups into Ag Econ.
- Utilize alumni from underrepresented groups to assist in recruitment students and placement.
- Actively pursue international undergraduate, graduate, and faculty exchange programs.
- Utilize our undergraduate curriculum to provide diverse experiences.
- Use our faculty and graduate student diversity to enhance the undergraduate experience.

**Key Indicators by 2014:**
1. 30% of faculty will participate in some international experience each year.
2. Emphasize faculty ethnic (1 or more) and gender diversity (2 or more female faculty).
3. Attract and maintain a graduate student enrollment from underrepresented groups that is equal to or greater than the average at the University (7.8%).
4. Maintain African American BS enrollment at or above the 6.6% (state’s population).
5. Maintain or surpass foreign undergraduate enrollment of 2%.
6. 10% of students will have an international academic experience.
7. Female enrollment will reach 30%.

GOAL 5
Improve the Quality of Life for Kentuckians through Extension, Outreach and Service

Most Significant Challenges
❖ Budget cuts combined with turnover have created critical capacity shortages in key areas.
❖ Cuts in state funding and increasing burdens on alternative funds sources
❖ Operating funds for extension, teaching and research becomes increasingly limited. Reliance on extramural sources necessarily increases. Faculty must adjust.
❖ Community and economic development resources are limited compared to traditional and commodity-focused programs.

Strategies
➣ Sustain existing and promote new Extension collaborations within and outside UK.
➣ Increase the deployment of new information technologies.
➣ Sustain traditional Extension strengths while offering innovative new issues-oriented programs in agricultural economics to serve increasingly diverse stakeholders.

Key Indicators by 2014:
1. Sustained Extension contacts at or above 2009 levels as measured by CATPAWS reports, county meetings, and in-service trainings.
2. Extension faculty will attract $100,000 of grant plus gift support per FTE/year.
3. Extension faculty will present at 1 professional or regional meeting per FTE/year.
4. Extension faculty members will publish one refereed journal article per FTE/year.
5. Extension faculty will develop, expand or maintain at least three outreach partnership agreements related to joint programming as measured by grant collaborations or board service per FTE/year.
6. Farm analysis (FA) specialists will publish 4 documents based on farm analysis data yearly.
7. FA specialists will carry enough cooperators to maintain the farm analysis database.
8. FA specialists will publish the Farm Analysis newsletter annually.
9. FA specialists will contribute 10 articles to the “Blue Sheet” yearly.
10. FA specialists will prepare and present 20-30 programs to non-cooperators annually.