Mission Statement - The mission of the Department of Horticulture is to provide research, educational, and instructional capabilities that demonstrate economically viable and sustainable production practices for Horticultural crops that can improve human health, nutrition, and well-being, while preserving the integrity of natural resources.

Goal 1: Prepare Students for Leading Roles in an Innovation-driven Economy and Global Society.

Strategies:

- Integrate the undergraduate Horticulture program with the interdisciplinary Sustainable Agriculture Program.
- Capitalize on graduate identity through the newly proposed Integrated Plant and Soil Science Program (IPSS).
- Maintain active participation in the Agricultural Biotechnology Program (ABT).

Key Indicators:

- Increase the number of undergraduate majors in Horticulture by 10% per year.
- Increase the number of faculty acting as advisors, research mentors, and instructors in the ABT program.
- Graduate M.S. and Ph.D. Horticulture students through the newly-implemented IPSS program and increase the number of graduates over a four year period on average by 10% per year.

**Strategies:**

- Demonstrate the unique ability of Horticultural research to provide information that serves the interest of all Kentuckians as well as citizens of the world by providing sustainable, economically profitable, healthy, and environmentally responsible information.

- Position the Department of Horticulture as one of the top three departments in the College of Agriculture by doubling the number of research publications, collective journal impact factor, competitive extramural funding, and patents by 2014.

**Key Indicators (all on the basis of research FTE):**

- Increase the number and amount of competitive grant submissions by 25% per year.

- Increase the number of research publications by 25% per year.

- Increase the collective journal impact factor for total departmental research publications by 25% per year.

- Increase the number of provisional and awarded patents by 25% per year.

**Goal 3: Develop the Human and Physical Resources of the College to Achieve Top 20 Stature.**

**Strategies:**

- Develop and implement plans and justification for increasing the number of faculty in the department.

- Establish plans to unify Horticulture faculty and staff in Lexington at one location.

- Foster an atmosphere of collective creativity and a community of scholars among Faculty and Staff.

- Position the Horticulture Research Farm (HRF) as a nationally recognized center of excellence for research and education in sustainable/organic production practices and environmentally sustainable infrastructure.

**Key Indicators:**

- Fill two vacant faculty positions by 2014.

- Identify opportunities for research and office space so the department can move towards unification.
- Secure on average over the next 4 years at least two national/international recognition awards for faculty each year.
- Increase technical and support staff by hiring 4 new positions.
- Reduce the reliance of the Horticulture Research Farm on natural gas and city water by 20% per year utilizing natural supplies of water and biofuel derived heating sources.

**Goal 4: Promote Diversity and Inclusion.**

**Strategies:**

- Develop and implement plans that emphasize the value and significance of diversity.
- Target new faculty and staff hires, as well as student recruitment, toward under-represented groups.
- Establish community and campus collaborations with diverse groups and organizations which foster inclusivity among and between under-represented groups.

**Key Indicators:**

- Increase the proportion of students from under-represented groups.
- Increase the proportion of faculty and staff from under-represented groups.
- Increase the number of collaborations with organizations whose missions and goals promote diversity and inclusion.

**Goal 5: Improve the Quality of Life of Kentuckians through Engagement, Outreach and Service.**

**Strategies:**

- Develop new and innovative mechanisms for the transfer of research based educational information to stakeholders and citizens of the Commonwealth.
- Facilitate the integration of research and extension faculty programs towards increased competitiveness for new funding opportunities.
- Develop and implement new extension programs designed to demonstrate viable sustainable/organic production practices for Kentucky growers.
Key Indicators:

- Capitalize on new technologies for communication with stakeholders and citizens of the Commonwealth by using eXtension, YouTube, and enhanced Web effectiveness.

- Increase the number of competitive federal and state grants awarded to faculty integrating extension, research, and educational programs.

- Increase the number of extension FTE’s devoted to sustainable/organic production systems across all Horticultural commodities.