

PROGRAM REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT
Animal and Food Sciences 2020–2021

Recommendation 1.

Establish a long-term faculty-hiring plan that grows the research capabilities of the department.

Assessment method:

Department Chair and Associate Chair, in coordination with the Advisory Council and department faculty, annually evaluate and discuss departmental needs in all three areas of responsibility (research, teaching, and extension) to ensure hiring priorities match departmental needs.

Results:

Due COVID, in 2020 the department had to make plans to reduce its FY2021 state budget by approximately 9.5%. This ultimately resulted in the department cutting two open faculty lines from its budget.

Analysis of results and reflection:

Ongoing issues related to the FY2021 budget cut halted any discussion about plans for faculty hires. Additionally, as portions of merit raises for faculty and staff have been passed down to departments to fund, the department is challenged to maintain existing faculty and staff lines.

Ongoing improvement actions:

Involving faculty and the Advisory Council in ongoing, annual discussions to prioritize how open faculty lines are filled ensures the highest priority needs are addressed. It also enables changes in hiring priorities can be addressed due to changes in needs. The Chair and Associate Chair will continue conversations with CAFE Office of Philanthropy about developing plans to seek gifts to support endowed faculty lines.

Recommendation 2.

Prioritize the hiring and retention of beef, swine, and small ruminant extension specialist positions.

Assessment method:

See Recommendation 1 above (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 1 to provide a more holistic approach in how all faculty hires are prioritized.)

Results:

See Recommendation 1 above (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 1 to provide a more holistic approach in how all faculty hires are prioritized.)

Analysis of results and reflection:

See Recommendation 1 above (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 1 to provide a more holistic approach in how all faculty hires are prioritized.)

Ongoing improvement actions:

See Recommendation 1 above (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 1 to provide a more holistic approach in how all faculty hires are prioritized.)

Recommendation 3.

Develop appropriate benchmarking against peer institutions.

Assessment method:

Objective, comparative data from our peer institutions will be compiled annually to determine how we

are progressing relative to our peers in all three areas of responsibility (research, teaching, and extension).

Results:

The Advisory Council had begun the process of identifying appropriate benchmark institutions and determining the appropriate measures to use for comparative purposes, but responding to COVID-19 (working remotely, transitioning all courses in the mid-Spring semester of 2020 to online delivery, developing plans for reopening in the Fall semester, developing plans to restart the research enterprise, etc.), as well as ongoing discussions on how to continue navigating the continued budget challenges have led to postponement of this pursuit.

Analysis of results and reflection:

Nothing to report yet.

Ongoing improvement actions:

Nothing to report yet as determining our appropriate benchmark land grant universities and the appropriate measures to use for comparison have been put on hold as efforts responding to COVID-19 and budget challenges have taken priority.

Recommendation 4.

Engage college administration to define and communicate an optimal structure that will allow the equine program to reach its full potential.

Assessment method:

Undergraduate student numbers and FTEs assigned to cover EQM and ASC teaching, advising, and planning for the academic enrichment experience will be evaluated annually to determine if needs for both undergraduate degree programs are being met.

Results:

While COVID-19 resulted in lower enrollments for both ASC and EQM, enrollment numbers in both majors remain at relatively high levels. These high student numbers, coupled with reductions in faculty numbers due to cut open faculty positions, have resulted in greater student: teacher ratios in both ASC and EQM courses.

Analysis of results and reflection:

Student numbers and available faculty to meet the responsibilities of teaching, advising, and planning for the academic experience of both EQM and ASC need constant evaluation to ensure students enrolled in these programs obtain the best educational experience possible. These evaluations should guide conversations with college administration on how to best allocate resources for these two important degree programs. It is clear that additional financial resources are needed to hire additional instructional FTEs if both these degree programs are to grow.

Ongoing improvement actions:

Work with college administration and the Director of Equine Programs to refine the organizational structure of Equine Programs in a way that facilitates communication and teamwork between Animal and Food Sciences and Equine Programs. Will also continue working with the CAFE Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to secure funding to expand both the teaching and research infrastructure at the AFS Horse Unit so that the growing needs for teaching do not hinder the research program.

Recommendation 5.

Develop strategies and faculty incentives to expand the creation and delivery of multi-media and on-line content across all missions.

Assessment method:

Several assessment methods will be used to measure departmental success in creating and delivering multi-media and online content. These will include number of online courses, number of students enrolled in online courses, number of multi-media resources developed for extension and research clientele, and number of downloads of multi-media resources from departmental web pages.

Results:

ASC 399 Experiential Learning in Animal Sciences continues to be fully offered as an online course. Although most ASC and FSC courses have transitioned back to fully in-person courses, several have maintained some level of remote learning to accommodate students that need to quarantine due to COVID. The department's extension faculty and staff have become very proficient at offering many of their educational opportunities for youth and adult clientele/stakeholders in distance learning formats. Additionally, the department's beef extension group are currently beta testing an innovative app (KY X10ND) that will provide a modern platform for delivering beef extension educational content and continue to incorporate technologies like Zoom and Facebook Live to remotely offer many of their outreach activities.

Analysis of results and reflection:

Transitioning appropriate undergraduate courses to hybrid and/or online platforms allow easier access of courses to both resident and non-resident students, allow for a variety of different content delivery methods to be used, and once developed may reduce faculty time needed for teaching. Developing a variety of multi-media resources for extension and research clientele provides resources in a form desired by clientele, and in forms that often facilitate the transfer of knowledge. While remote learning can be an effective tool to utilize for some instructional and outreach activities, the COVID pandemic demonstrated that we must also maintain a strong in-person presence to best facilitate learning. Additionally, COVID-19 highlighted the need for additional technology support to assist the department with development and support of these kinds of resources.

Ongoing improvement actions:

The department will continue to evaluate where the delivery of online and multi-media content would enhance our missions of teaching, research, and extension, and as time and resources allow will continue to develop and offer these kinds of resources. Additionally, the department will work with CAFE administration and the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to explore ways to secure funding to hire additional technical support staff to assist with departmental multimedia and online content.

Recommendation 6.

Identify the physical and programmatic needs required to replace the Garrigus building and construct an on-campus multi-use livestock teaching/event facility.

Assessment method:

The college completed a review of research laboratory space in Garrigus in 2017 that identified several physical limitations that limit research capabilities. Additionally, the college has completed a comprehensive review of classroom space utilized by students that highlighted the needs for additional classroom space for teaching. When the timing is appropriate (i.e., when funding becomes available to replace the Garrigus Building), the department will conduct a survey of faculty and staff in the department to determine the amount of research and teaching laboratory space that is needed to support research and teaching efforts, as well as the amount of space needed for offices (for faculty, staff, graduate students, post-docs, visiting scientists, etc.), classrooms, conference/meeting rooms, undergraduate student gathering and study space, and storage

Results:

Although numerous needs have been identified, the lack of financial resources required to renovate or replace the Garrigus Building and to construct an on-campus multi-use livestock teaching/event facility

have prevented addressing these needs. The new USDA ARS FAPRU facility on the UK campus that is currently being planned will provide some new laboratory and office space for a few department research faculty and their support staff.

Analysis of results and reflection:

The Garrigus Building requires major renovation or replacement to meet the ongoing research, teaching, and extension needs of the department. Additionally, an on-campus multi-use livestock teaching/event facility would greatly enhance the teaching labs for several courses and would help alleviate much of the need of transporting students to the department's Animal Units for teaching labs. These will not be able to be addressed until enough funding is identified/secured.

Ongoing improvement actions:

As funding becomes available the department will develop plans for renovation of the Garrigus Building or construction of a new building. The Chair and Associate Chair will work with CAFE administration and the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to identify funding for renovation of Garrigus (or construction of a new building) and construction of on-campus livestock teaching/event facility.

Recommendation 7.

Develop a mechanism and timeline to improve/expand off-campus facilities, specifically the milking parlor, equine unit, and swine teaching barn.

Assessment method:

See Recommendation 8 below (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 8 to provide a more holistic approach for the development and maintenance of facilities.)

Results:

See Recommendation 8 below (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 8 to provide a more holistic approach for the development and maintenance of facilities.)

Analysis of results and reflection:

See Recommendation 8 below (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 8 to provide a more holistic approach for the development and maintenance of facilities.)

Ongoing improvement actions:

See Recommendation 8 below (This recommendation combined with Recommendation 8 to provide a more holistic approach for the development and maintenance of facilities.)

Recommendation 8.

Develop a mechanism for continued off-campus facility maintenance, repairs, and renovations, and sustaining budgets through fluctuating agriculture markets.

Assessment method:

The department annually conducts a review of current facilities to determine renovation, repair, maintenance, and/or facility replacement needs.

Results:

The annual assessment of needs has identified numerous items requiring attention. Current high priority identified include (1) relocation of the facilities that support the dairy calf nutrition and dairy heifer development research programs, and remodeling of the Boar Stud into a laboratory and office/meeting facility for the dairy research program, (2) relocation of the Poultry Unit, (3) development and construction of new research facilities at the Equine Unit, (4) construction of a new Meats Lab, (5) updating and modernizing animal research space in the Garrigus Building basement, and (6) updating and modernizing analytical laboratory space

throughout the Garrigus Building.

Analysis of results and reflection:

The department currently operates seven (7) animal units, animal research space in the basement of Garrigus, a Meats Lab, and a Food Processing lab that support its research, teaching, and outreach missions. Maintaining and updating all these facilities requires substantial financial resources, and limited availability of funds often results in basic maintenance being delayed. Two of the three facilities associated with the new Poultry Unit are currently under construction, and funding for the equipment for these two facilities as well as for the office facility associated with the Poultry Unit is currently being sought. Funding is also being sought for the dairy calf nutrition and dairy heifer development research facilities and the dairy research laboratory and office/meeting facility.

Ongoing improvement actions:

Continue to work with college administration to develop a budget strategy that provides stability and sustainability for the department's animal units. Work with college administration and the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to increase philanthropic efforts in securing funding for maintenance and repair of facilities.

Recommendation 9.

Define the facility and resource needs to create a dynamic and sustainable undergraduate and graduate food science program in the department.

Assessment method:

Several metrics will be used to evaluate the success of the department's food science program. These will include number of undergraduate students majoring in Food Science, number of graduate students being trained by Food Science faculty, grant and gift dollars secured to support the research and graduate student training program, and success in developing a Food Processing Pilot Plant.

Results:

The Chair and Associate Chair have worked with the Food Science faculty and Academic Coordinator to develop a new Food Science undergraduate degree program that will utilize three distinct tracks within the major: (1) Distillation, Fermentation and Beverage Sciences, (2) Business Operations, and (3) Research and Development. New recruiting methods are also being explored to increase awareness of the new undergraduate degree program. Faculty are also working with the Chair and Associate Chair to identify potential donors to assist with developing a modern Food Processing Pilot Plant.

Analysis of results and reflection:

The goal of the changes to the undergraduate degree program and the improved methods of recruitment is to increase undergraduate student numbers from 25 to 50 over the next 5 years.

Ongoing improvement actions:

The Chair will continue to work with Food Science faculty and the Academic Coordinator to identify more effective ways to recruit undergraduate Food Science students. The Chair will also work with faculty and the Office Philanthropy and Alumni to secure funding to develop a Food Processing Pilot Plant to enhance both undergraduate and graduate student instructional and research capabilities.

Recommendation 10.

Engage extension specialists to explore sustainable funding models for program support.

Assessment method:

Assessment metric will include funding received (grants, gifts, philanthropic, etc.) to support extension programming efforts.

Results:

As mentioned already, the department's beef extension group are currently beta testing an innovative

app that will provide a modern platform for delivering beef extension educational content. If successful, sales for the use of the app will develop a new revenue stream that will be used to support beef extension programming. Conversations with other departmental specialists are ongoing with regards to identifying new funding models.

Analysis of results and reflection:

Nothing to report yet, other than there is a clearly recognized need to identify alternative and sustainable funding models to support the department's extension efforts.

Ongoing improvement actions:

The Chair will work with extension specialists to (1) identify and evaluate funding models used at other land grant institutions to fund programs, (2) develop a strategy that provides for ongoing evaluation of programs offered to clientele to ensure clientele needs are being met, (3) develop AFRI-funded integrated grants [i.e., extension/research and research/extension grants], (4) engage CAFE Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to secure funding for support personnel and other extension programming expenses, and (5) engage CAFE administration to explore the feasibility of counties providing financial support for some extension travel and programming.

Recommendation 11.

Enhance undergraduate and graduate experiential learning.

Assessment method:

Metrics to measure the success of the department's undergraduate and graduate experiential learning activities have yet to be developed.

Results:

Nothing to report yet, other than the department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Graduate Activities Committee continue looking at ways to develop a diverse and impactful experiential learning program for both undergraduate and graduate students. However, the need to transition many of the department's courses to hybrid or fully online because of COVID-19 has reduced the amount of time that could be spent on this recommendation.

Analysis of results and reflection:

As fewer students come from farming and animal production backgrounds, the need for providing hands-on, experiential learning opportunities as a part of the educational process has grown dramatically. Additionally, the college has added the requirement for all students having an "academic enrichment experience" to help fill this need. There is a great need to hire a staff position (with appropriate academic qualifications) to provide oversight and leadership for undergraduate academic enrichment experiences, but current budget issues make this type of hire impossible.

Ongoing improvement actions:

Continue work with the Curriculum Committee, Graduate Activities Committee, and faculty to develop a menu of academic enrichment experiences that will be of most benefit to our undergraduate and graduate students. Work with research and teaching faculty to develop a process for increasing undergraduate classroom and lab teaching opportunities for graduate students. Work with CAFE administration and the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to secure funding for an Academic Enrichment Experience Coordinator position.

Recommendation 12.

Increase funds available for undergraduate ASC scholarships, graduate student stipends, and graduate student tuition.

Assessment method:

Metrics to use for assessment will include funds available for scholarships, stipends paid to graduate students, and funds available to support graduate student tuition. Other metrics will include number of scholarships awarded and number of graduate students, and comparison of our graduate student stipends relative to our benchmark universities.

Results:

Efforts are underway to identify ways to increase funding for these efforts, but COVID-19 and budget challenges have taken precedent over these conversations.

Analysis of results and reflection:

Limits on the number and value of scholarships available to graduating high school seniors with interests in pursuing Animal Science as a major makes it difficult for us to compete with regional universities in recruiting many Kentucky students. Additionally, decreasing departmental funds available for graduate student stipends and tuition has placed tremendous pressure on faculty to supplement (or fully fund) funds for graduate student training. Decreasing competitive federal funding levels further exacerbate this problem.

Ongoing improvement actions:

Work with the Office of Student Success to develop a plan for greater involvement of Animal Science faculty in the awarding of scholarships. Work with CAFE Office of Philanthropy and Alumni to secure funding for graduate full tuition scholarships, and funding to increase both the number and amount of graduate student stipends.
