

Update from Animal Science Teaching Section

A.S. Leaflet R2668

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Summary and Implications

Enrollment figures at all levels at Iowa State University continued to increase in 2010. Fall enrollment in the Department of Animal Science and Iowa State University were at record highs and the College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS) surpassed 3,200 students for the first time in about two decades.

Placement of students remained high even in with the challenging economy. In general, placement of students from all majors in the College remained well over 90 percent for the past fiscal year.

The fund-raising program for the multi-purpose animal pavilion made significant progress, approaching the half-way mark in dollars pledged. The department hopes to finish the fund drive during 2011.

Introduction: Enrollment Growth Continues

The Animal Science Department enrollment set a record for the fifth year in a row: 864 students. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences enrollment was 3298, up more than 200 students from 2009. ISU enrollment recorded a second record year in a row at 28,682, up over 700 from last year (see Table 1).

Since 2004, enrollment in animal science has increased by 288 students. As was noted last year, this level of enrollment of departmental majors continued to be good news, but has caused the teaching program to reach the 'breaking point' for available spaces for teaching on campus and at the teaching farms. In 2011, the teaching faculty must strategize how to accommodate requests for our ever popular livestock and companion animal laboratories. One of the biggest challenges is accommodating the large number of non-majors wanting to take our courses, especially courses in beef and swine production science.

Table 1. Fall 2010 Enrollment at Iowa State University.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	715
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	56
General Preveterinary students*	93
Total, department undergraduates	864
Animal Science graduate students	92
Total, department	956
Total undergrads, College of Ag/Life Sci	3,298
Total, Iowa State University	28,682

* Majors in animal or dairy science may declare preveterinary medicine options, but the department also

manages the undeclared preveterinary medicine program (General Preveterinary Medicine) for the university.

Career Placement

Placement rate continues to keep pace with increased graduation numbers. In 2010 the department graduated 38 more students than in 2009, reflecting the dramatic increase in annual enrollment. The 2010 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Career Services annual report showed 98 percent placement for Animal Science and 100 percent for Dairy Science. Starting salary information collected from spring and fall 2010 graduating senior exit interviews averaged about \$38,000. Selected placement information from the CALS 2010 annual report is found in Table 2.

Table 2. 2010 Career Services Annual Report: undergraduate employment results for animal science and dairy science graduates.

	Number:
Graduates	139
Placed or further education (98%)	136
Placed in agriculture careers	66
Employment within Iowa	53
Further education*	65
Estimated average starting salary	\$36,500

* "Further education" included graduate studies (MBA, M.S., Ph.D.); colleges of law, medicine, and veterinary medicine; or a second bachelor's program.

The fall 2010 Agriculture Career Day at ISU was again the largest in the nation with about 160 companies or organizations attending. The event was hosted in the Lied Recreation Center for the second year. The location provides a spacious, organized venue for the students and recruiters around the indoor track. For more information on ISU's CALS Career Services program, please go to:

www.career.ag.iastate.edu/

The department's internship program continues to be a great success. The program allows students to test-market career possibilities as well as allowing companies and organizations to get an early look at potential graduates. Internships in recent semesters have included such diverse venues as: Tyson Foods, Oakmoon Farm & Creamery, the National Aquarium, and Henry Doorly Zoo. If you want to find out more about the department's internship program, you can view multiple past semester's work at:

<http://www.anslab.iastate.edu/Class/AnS399%20Internships/>

Graduates of Animal and Dairy Science continue to be highly selected for colleges of veterinary and human medicine, law schools, and graduate programs. This past

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year 65 students entered professional programs. This is the largest group of graduates in history to be selected for professional study - about a 50:50 split between graduate study and medical/veterinary medical programs.

Many of these programs actively pursue ISU animal science students and select primarily students who rank within the top 20% of ISU's graduating class.

The department graduated 15 Master of Science (MS) students and 5 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students; all but one entered employment. A number of students also graduated in inter-departmental programs, such as the new program in nutritional sciences.

Changes: Old Faces and New Faces

During 2010, Al Christian retired after 50 years with the department. Al served the department for five decades as swine teaching unit manager. He had trained literally generations of swine unit managers and industry employees during his time on staff. In honor of Al's service and commitment to the department, the swine teaching unit will soon be renamed the 'Allen E. Christian Swine Teaching Farm'. Mr. Jay Lampe, an alumnus of the department, joined the staff in 2010 to serve as manager of all swine farms, teaching and research. Jay will also join the teaching

group with involvement in teaching some of the critical laboratories in swine science.

Joining the teaching group in 2010 was Dr. Aileen Keating. Dr. Keating comes to us from the University of Arizona. She joined the Physiology Section and will continue research in reproductive toxicology. Her teaching assignment will include sharing responsibilities for AnS214 – domestic animal anatomy and physiology.

Discussion

Animal Science continued to grow in undergraduate student numbers and faculty in 2010. During recruiting sessions, which happen daily at 1pm, students and parents comment often that they are visiting ISU because of the reputations of the Department of Animal Science and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It is the mission of the animal science teaching faculty to continue to build on that reputation by providing a solid science-based education combined with an exceptional experiential learning environment in laboratories and at the teaching farms. To track new developments in animal science teaching programs, facilities, faculty and staff, please sign on to the following website: <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/>