

Update from Animal Science Teaching Section

A.S. Leaflet R2747

M. Douglas Kenealy, university professor,
Department of Animal Science

Summary and Implications

Fall 2011 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 3,500 – an increase of nearly 300 students in one year. Placement of graduates for CALs and the department remained at about 97 percent within six months of graduation. Approximately 170 companies and organizations attended the October, 2011 CALs career fair, another all-time high. A very high percentage of organizations at the career fair also were looking for interns. A second career fair will be held in February based upon demand from companies and organizations.

The fund-raising program for the multi-purpose animal pavilion continues to make progress, surpassing the half-way mark in dollars pledged. The department hopes to finish the fund drive during early 2012.

Introduction: Enrollment breaks another record

Student enrollment has its cycles like most market driven systems. In modern times, the peaks in enrollment have been in 1980 (624 students) and 1996 (672) with valleys on either side in 1986 and 2004. In 2006, departmental enrollment began climbing again, setting records each subsequent year. Current enrollment is 924 students. That enrollment is 26 percent of the CALs total for 15 departments. The fall 2011 CALs enrollment was 3,584, up nearly 300 students from 2010. ISU enrollment established a third record year in a row at 29,887, up over 1,200 from last year (see Table 1).

Since 2004, enrollment in animal science has increased by 350 students or 38 percent. As was noted last year's report, 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.

Table 1. Fall 2011 Enrollment at Iowa State University.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	823
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	61
General Preveterinary students*	40
Total, department undergraduates	924
Animal Science graduate students	73
Total, department	997
Total undergrads, College of Ag/Life Sci	3,584
Total, Iowa State University	29,887

* 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. The 2011 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Career Services annual report showed 97 percent placement for Animal Science and 100 percent for Dairy Science. Starting salary information collected from spring and fall 2011 graduating senior exit interviews averaged about \$38,000, essentially the same as 2010. Range for starting salaries is from approximately \$30,000 for the federal government to over \$50,000 in the food-related industry. Selected placement information from the CALs 2011 annual report is found in Table 2.

Table 2. 2011 Career Services Annual Report: Undergraduate employment results for animal science and dairy science graduates.

	Number:
Graduates (161 responded to survey)	163
Placed or further education (97%)	158*
Placed in agriculture careers	81
Employment within Iowa	64
Further education**	75
Estimated average starting salary	\$38,000

* 158 total = 83 employed + 75 in 'further education'

** "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 2011 Agriculture Career Day at ISU was again the largest in the nation, and in keeping with the strength in CALs and Animal Science, a new record of approximately 170 companies or organizations attended. The event was hosted in the Lied Recreation Center again this year. 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, this year including students interning outside the United States. Internships ranged from the Florida equine industry to animal health companies, the Smithsonian Institution, and an international zoo. If you want to find out more about the department's internship program, you can view multiple past semesters 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. In 2011, 75

Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2012

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.

The department graduated 15 Master of Science (MS) students and 8 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students; while many MS students continued for PhD degrees, all PhD graduates entered professional employment. A number of students also graduated in inter-departmental programs, such as the relatively new program in nutritional sciences.

Changes: A New Leader for Animal Science Teaching

Dr. Jodi Sterle joined the department in fall term 2011 as the 'leader in transition' for Section Leader in Animal Science Teaching. Dr. Sterle came to Iowa State University from Texas A&M, where she was a member of the teaching faculty and served as the state extension leader for the swine industry. In January, 2012, Dr. Sterle will assume full leadership of the teaching section and will hold the title of Eldred and Donna Harman Professorship in Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Dr. Sterle will assume the role vacated by M. Douglas Kenealy, retiring in 2012.

Discussion

It is the goal of the teaching program in the Department of Animal Science to attract qualified young people to be trained as animal scientists. Those students come from traditional rural backgrounds as well as an increasing number from towns and cities. They come from the United States, its territories, and many countries from around the world. The reputation of the animal and dairy science majors is enhanced by the quality of those graduating from the program, the excellence that graduates bring to their careers and professional schools, and the reputation created by faculty through teaching, research, and extension. The Department of Animal Science students and faculty are proud to represent ISU and proud to have ISU in their pedigree. To refer a young man or woman to become a member of this proud tradition of educational excellence or 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/>