

Update from Animal Science Teaching Section

A.S. Leaflet R2473

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Animal Science

Summary and Implications

Animal Science enrollment increase continued to be the big story for the undergraduate program in 2008. For the first time in history, undergraduate enrollment in the department went over 800. This level of enrollment created opportunities to request increase teaching and advising support from the college, but also stressed the available spaces for teaching on campus and at the teaching farms.

Placement remained excellent as graduation numbers increased. The department has not been below 95% placement in the past decade. An exceptional college placement office supports placement activities for the department's highly educated and well-qualified seniors.

The new ISU Dairy opened in late 2007 and planning for a new multi-purpose animal pavilion continues. These building programs will have a positive impact on enrollment, retention, and placement through the quality of learning environment they will provide.

Introduction: Enrollment Boom

In fall 2008, the Department of Animal Science set another all-time record for undergraduate enrollment and hit a major mile-stone by surpassing 800 students. In the past five years, enrollment has increased by 321 students or 66 percent. This dramatic increase in student numbers brings with it pluses and minuses. Increased enrollment over the past five years has allowed the department to successfully compete for added teaching and advising faculty, but has concurrently caused overloads in lecture and laboratory enrollment. Simply stated, there are not enough seats in laboratories or hours in the regular day to accommodate all the students who want to enroll in animal science courses. See Table 1 for general enrollment figures.

Table 1. Fall 2008 Enrollment at Iowa State University.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	685
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	67
General Preveterinary students*	58
Total, department undergraduates	810
Animal Science graduate students	87
Total, department	897
Total undergrads, College of Ag/Life Sci	2,845
Total, Iowa State University	26,856

* 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.

Teaching Facilities Update

The new ISU dairy officially opened its doors to cows and visitors the week after Thanksgiving of 2007. In one year since opening, nearly 1,000 persons have signed in as farm visitors. Several agricultural organizations have used the classroom area to hold annual meetings. If you wish to tour or meet at the farm, please contact Mary Healey at ph. 515-296-4219.

Phase two of the dairy farm building project is the proposed new animal science pavilion. The pavilion project has moved to the architectural concept and initial budget proposal stage. The pavilion project is proposed as a multi-use facility that will accommodate classes, outreach activities, and animal events open to the public. The site for the multi-use pavilion is on Mortensen Road on the east portion of the old ISU-Ames dairy site.

Career Placement

Placement rate continues to keep pace with increased graduation numbers. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Career Services annual report for 2007 showed 96 percent placement for Animal Science and 100 percent for Dairy Science. Starting salary information collected from spring 2008 graduating senior exit interviews averaged \$36,363. Selected placement information from the CALS 2007 report is found in Table 2.

Table 2. Fiscal year 2007 undergraduate employment: results for animal science and dairy science students.

	Number:
Graduates	119
Placed or further education (95%)	115
Placed in agriculture careers	69
Employment within Iowa	53
Further education*	43
Estimated average starting salary	\$36,363

* "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 2008 Agriculture Career Day at ISU was the largest in the nation with about 160 companies or organizations meeting with our students. Career Day registration competition for booth space continued to be a 'good news-bad news' situation, with a Memorial Union full of opportunities for our students, but a number of companies had to be turned away. This fall, some organizations agreed to be in tents outside of the union.

Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2009

Unfortunately, the weather was poor and the tent ‘business’ was relatively slow. The previous Career Day 2007 overflow prompted CALS to hold a second-chance career day on Valentine’s Day in 2008. Over 100 companies took advantage of that opportunity. At this time it is not know if there will be a second career day in spring 2009.

The continued level of interest and attendance by companies and organizations at the career day reflects the strong career and internship market for agriculture students. During FY2007, 81 companies completed 981 formal interviews at Agriculture Career Services in Curtiss Hall. Interviews included both career and intern opportunities. For more information on ISU’s CALS Career Services program, please go to: www.career.ag.iastate.edu/

Graduates of Animal and Dairy Science continue to be highly selected for colleges of veterinary medicine and graduate schools. This past year approximately 40 students entered professional programs. Many of these programs select primarily students who rank within the top 20% of ISU’s graduating class. As a measure of quality, nearly 50% the department’s students made the fall 2007 Dean’s List.

The department graduated 21 Master of Science students; 12 entered employment and 8 continued in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or other professional programs. Seven students completed PhD programs; all entered animal agriculture positions with industry or academia.

Changes: Old Faces and New Faces

After approximately 40 years of teaching at Iowa State University, Dr. George Brant retired in August of 2008. Dr. Brant had a long history of teaching courses ranging from introductory animal science (AnS 114) to poultry systems management (AnS 423) and companion animal management (AnS 424). For the past quarter of a century, he managed

and taught AnS 214/214L – domestic animal anatomy and physiology, a course required of every student in the department. Additionally, Dr. Brant advised hundreds of students during his career. Departing a 100 percent teaching position, Dr. Brant left a large space in the teaching and advising core. Among the new hires to help fill this gap is Dr. Josh Selsby who has already begun his service as professor for AnS 214. Additionally, the department is seeking a poultry specialist and a companion animal lecturer to begin employment during the 2009 calendar year.

Other relatively new faculty with teaching and advising responsibilities include:

New faculty:	Area:	Allied activity:
Nikki Ferwerda	Equine/judging	Coach equine team
Nick Gabler	Nutrition	
Sherrie Olsen	Meats/judging	Coach meats team
Jason Ross	Physiology	
Josh Selsby	Physiology	
Jeff Thayne	Livestock	Coach livestock team

Discussion

Changes in faculty, facilities, and enrollment made 2008 an evolutionary year for the Animal Science Department. Growth in student numbers has supported the department’s increase faculty members to support teaching and advising. New student and faculty faces bring changes to the classroom atmosphere and overall excitement to the teaching program. 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/>