

## Update from Animal Science Teaching Section

### A.S. Leaflet R2573

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#### Summary and Implications

Enrollment at Iowa State University continued to increase in 2009. Enrollment in the Department of Animal Science and the University were at all time highs. Increases in times of tuition hikes and a tight economy underscore student's understanding of the value of an ISU education.

Though 2009 brought economic challenges and U.S. unemployment of over 10 percent, placement remained excellent for Animal and Dairy Science graduates, even as graduation numbers increased. The department has not been below 95% placement in the past decade.

The academic year brought many changes in personnel as faculty and staff took advantage of an ISU 'retirement incentive option'. Even with the tough economy, the department was able to fill several critical positions related to teaching. Concurrent with the addition of new faculty was the announcement of a fund-raising program to take the long awaited multi-purpose animal pavilion from planning stages to building. Addition of the arena to the ISU landscape will have significant impact on recruiting, course offerings, and hosting agricultural events for the department and college.

#### Introduction: Enrollment Boom Continues

Animal Science undergraduate enrollment increased to 823 students in fall 2009, for the fourth record breaking year in a row. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences enrollment surpassed 3,000 for the first time in many years, and ISU set a new enrollment record approaching 28,000 (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Fall 2009 Enrollment at Iowa State University.**

Animal Science undergraduate majors	705
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	66
General Preveterinary students*	52
<b>Total, department undergraduates</b>	<b>823</b>
Animal Science graduate students	92
<b>Total, department</b>	<b>915</b>
Total undergrads, College of Ag/Life Sci	3,082
Total, Iowa State University	27,945

\* 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.

Enrollment increases in the department during the past decade approached 70 percent. This level of enrollment of

Animal Science and Dairy Science majors was good news, but continued to stress the available spaces for teaching on campus and at the teaching farms.

#### Pavilion Update

During fall 2009, announcement of a fund drive to build a new multi-purpose pavilion for the department and college was greeted with great excitement. ISU graduate and Ames entrepreneur, Marvin Walter and his wife Janice announced at the department's Chuckwagon Breakfast that they had pledged \$1.5 million to kick off a \$7million dollar fund-raising campaign.

The facility will be built near Mortensen Road on the former ISU Dairy grounds, now utilized by the equine program. The 150 by 250 foot arena with 1000 seats will host multi-species university classes and events as well as outreach and industry events open to the public.

#### Career Placement

Placement rate continues to keep pace with increased graduation numbers. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Career Services annual report showed 95 percent placement for Animal Science and 100 percent for Dairy Science. Starting salary information collected from spring 2009 graduating senior exit interviews averaged over \$36,000. Selected placement information from the CALS 2009 annual report is found in Table 2.

**Table 2. 2009 Career Services Annual Report: undergraduate employment results for animal science and dairy science students.**

	Number:
Graduates	101
Placed or further education (95%)*	96
Placed in agriculture careers	55
Employment within Iowa	43
Further education**	37
Estimated average starting salary	\$36,500

\*2 seeking employment; 3 not responding and included in non-employed.

\*\* "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 2009 Agriculture Career Day at ISU was again the largest in the nation with about 160 companies or organizations meeting with our students. Over 1,200 students attended the event. Career Day pre-registration was so high that the college moved the event to the Lied Recreation Center on the main athletic floor. Over 1,000 interviews were held between Career Day and the end of fall

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semester 2009. Interviews included both permanent positions and internship opportunities. As in the previous two academic years, there is a second Career Day event planned for February 2010 to accommodate more companies and more interview dates. For more information on ISU's CALS Career Services program, please go to: [www.career.ag.iastate.edu/](http://www.career.ag.iastate.edu/)

Graduates of Animal and Dairy Science continue to be highly selected for colleges of veterinary and human medicine, law schools, and graduate schools. This past year 37 students entered professional programs. Many of these programs select primarily students who rank within the top 20% of ISU's graduating class.

The department graduated 6 Master of Science (MS) students and 9 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students; all entered employment. A number of students also graduated in inter-departmental programs. A new inter-departmental program in nutrition began with the current catalog biennium.

### Changes: Old Faces and New Faces

At the homecoming Animal Science Chuckwagon Breakfast, the department honored two of its members; Dr. Lloyd Anderson and Allen Christian, for 50 years service each – a veritable ISU record. Dr. Anderson has taught reproductive physiology coursework to undergraduates and graduates for five decades, since starting his career as a young assistant professor. His research related to animal reproduction has had tremendous impact on the livestock industry. Al Christian has served the department for five decades as swine teaching unit manager. He has trained literally generations of swine unit managers and industry employees during his time on staff. Both men will be missed when they enter retirement. They are icons of service for ISU and the animal industry.

Also departing the teaching program in 2009 are two secretaries known to every graduate as the faces of Animal and Dairy Science in 119 and 123 Kildee. Helen Kepler

retired in August after over 20 years service as secretary in 119 Kildee, Animal Science Teaching headquarters. Her legacy includes guiding at least 3000 Animal Science students through the process of working with their advisor, registering for classes, and getting ready for the real world. Ilene Carlson retired in December after 35 years service as secretary in 123 Kildee, Dairy Science headquarters. Ilene saw two generations of some dairy families grow from freshman to graduates to distinguished members of the US dairy community. Few faculty members have such rich and respected histories as these two secretaries. We will miss them greatly.

Other relatively new faculty with undergraduate teaching and advising responsibilities include:

New faculty:	Area:	Allied activity:
Lance Baumgard	Nutrition, dairy cattle	Environmental and nutritional physiology research
John DeClerck	Livestock evaluation and judging	Teaching introductory courses in animal science
Stephanie Hansen	Nutrition, beef cattle	Beef feedlot nutrition research
Michael Persia	Nutrition, poultry	Poultry production efficiency research

### Discussion

Though challenging economic times required significant budget cuts and reversions by ISU, Animal science was lucky to be able to fill critical positions related to teaching and to kick off a major fund-raising drive for a new pavilion. While several much respected faculty and staff members left ISU for retirement, new people bring promise for the future. 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/>