University of Idaho

Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

2005-2006 Plan of Work Update

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OVERVIEW

During 2005-2006, the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station (IAES) will coordinate and conduct research programs with emphases consistent with Plan of Work submitted originally for the period of 1999-2004. Our current general programs are as follows:

GOAL 1: AN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM THAT IS H IGHLY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Program 1: Plant Germplasm, Genetic Resources and Conservation, Plant Health and Well-Being
Program 2: Animal Health and Well-Being
Program 3: Crop and Livestock Production Systems
Program 4: Farm business management, economics and marketing

GOAL 2: A SAFE AND SECURE FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM

Program 5: Food Safety and Quality

GOAL 3: A HEALTHY, WELL NOURISHED POPULATION

IAES Program 6: Human Health and Nutrition

GOAL 4: GREATER HARMONY BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

IAES Program 7: Soil, Water and Air Quality Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture Practices
IAES Program 8: Pollution control and natural resources

GOAL 5: ENHANCED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AMERICANS

IAES Program 9: Economic Enhancement, Improved Quality of Life

COMPARISONS OF 1999-2004 AND 2005-06 MAJOR PROGRAMS

Although the relative roles of various research programs affecting agriculture and related areas have not changed dramatically since submission of our 1999-2004 Plan of Work, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is undergoing an internal process to prioritize programs. This process is designed to focus our resources and at the same time will allow research efforts to more closely align with extension and academic programs. We expect that is very likely that these upcoming changes will influence program operating support and faculty research FTEs. However, for reasons described below, this prioritization will make it possible for the IAES to coordinate the research Plan of Work with activities involving extension and academic programs.

Based on our current and future resources, we are in the process of conducting an extensive process to define a limited number of signature programs aligned with our three functions of teaching, research, and extension. Within this process, each unit will focus and define its contributions to these three functions. These contributions will be based on the overall mission of the IAES and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, in a changing academic and funding environment, and also on our responsibilities to future industry and stakeholder

needs. This process will define which programs, new and existing, are critical five to eight years in the future.

Our leaders (Unit Administrators, District Directors, College Administrators), through considerable discussion, have developed signature program areas. These include: 1) Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Crop and Livestock Integrated Systems, 2) Agricultural and Food Based Process and Product Innovation, 3) Managing Soil, Air, Water and Biological Resources, 4) Human Health, Nutrition and Food Safety, Disease Prevention, 5) Urban Environment and Small Acreage Agriculture, 6) Youth Education and Development, Individual and Family Well-being, and 7) Community Development.

It is anticipated that we will retain our current nine research programs, but that they will be placed within one or more of our research/extension/academic program signature programs. With this in mind, the currently planned signature programs will align with each the major national goals as follows:

GOAL 1: AN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM THAT IS H IGHLY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Signature Programs:

- Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Crop and Livestock Integrated Systems
- Urban Environment and Small Acreage Agriculture

GOAL 2: A SAFE AND SECURE FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM

Signature Program:

- Human Health, Nutrition and Food Safety, Disease Prevention

GOAL 3: A HEALTHY, WELLNOURISHED POPULATION

Signature Program:

- Human Health, Nutrition and Food Safety, Disease Prevention

GOAL 4: GREATER HARMONY BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Signature Programs:

- Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Crop and Livestock Integrated Systems
- Managing Soil, Air, Water and Biological Resources

GOAL 5: ENHANCED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AMEREICANS

Signature Program:

- Youth Education and Development, Individual and Family Well-being Community Development

CHANGES TO RESOURCES ALLOCATED

It is possible that resources allocated to individual programs may vary somewhat based on their relatedness to certain signature programs. However, we do not anticipate any significant changes in allocation distribution among the five national goals.

CHANGES IN STAKEHOLDER INPUT

We do not anticipate significant changes in stakeholder input in comparison to our original 1999-2004 Plan of Work. However, this section of the 2003 Annual Report for the Plan of Work has been extensively expanded to clarify our process for obtaining stakeholder input. This modified text is copied below.

Stakeholder Input

Within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station (IAES) relies on the avenues of stakeholder input employed across the college. The IAES plan of work was derived with the input from and has been shared with a broad cross-section of stakeholders in Idaho. In brief, the major stakeholder groups providing input regarding the IAES's spectrum of research activities (as reflected in the portfolio of IAES research projects and the plan of work) include:

- The college's Agricultural Consulting Council (ACC) which was an 80 member organization composed of representatives selected by virtually every agricultural, food system, and family and consumer science organization within the state. This advisory group has traditionally been the primary stakeholder group with which the college and IAES have had significant interactions in terms of areas of program development and emphasis and, accordingly, the current plan of work. In 2001, CALS began reorganization of the Agricultural Consulting Council into a smaller more focused and dedicated group that will be know as the "Dean's Advisory Council". This new college level advisory group was instituted in 2002. Many members of the ACC have transitioned into serving on the departmental advisory committees that have been formed in all the academic departments of CALS (see below).
- Idaho Cooperative Extension has citizen advisory groups in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties. These committees, which are composed of a very diverse and broad mix of public interests, provide input regarding extension and research program priorities from the county perspective.
- Idaho's 17 agricultural commodity commissions and organizations provide advice specific to commodity based programs and appropriate disciplines and departments within the college. In addition, IAES researchers provide leadership and most of the content for several major commodity schools that are presented annually in the state. The commodity schools are well attended by stakeholders from Idaho and the region. These "schools", while primarily conducted as major outreach/technology transfer events to provide the latest research results to stakeholders, also serve as major sources of stakeholder input to IAES regarding research priorities and directions. Commodity schools are annually conducted for potato, cereal, sugar beet science and technology. As an example, the University of Idaho Potato School is a three-day event that annually attracts approximately 1,200 registrants who come from Idaho, the PNW region, virtually all other states involved in potato production as well as representatives from approximately 25-30 foreign countries.
- Beyond the commodity schools mentioned above, annually or semi-annually IAES faculty, both from campus and from out-state locations, actively organize and participate

in "field days" at each of the IAES's twelve off-campus research and extension centers as well as a number of additional more focused "program" tours such as: weed identification, ecology, management and technology at several locations, potato storage research open-house, pomology program open-house and field day, and tours of the IAES's crop genetic improvement research programs for beans, potatoes, wheat, and the oilseed crops of rapeseed and mustard. Again, these stakeholder events function as educational/technology transfer events as well as opportunities for stakeholder interaction. In addition, annually many IAES faculty are involved with organizing symposia that address special topics. In this reporting period, IAES have faculty have presented symposia on biofuels, water quality, and dairy waste and nutrient management technologies. All of these activities constitute significant opportunities for stakeholder interaction and input into our research programs concerning stakeholder needs and priorities.

- The IAES research project portfolio and an abbreviated version of the plan of work is annually shared and discussed with representative from the executive branch of state government including the Governor's Office, the Dept. of Agriculture, and to a lesser extent, the Dept. of Environmental Quality, Dept. of Health and Welfare, and the Dept. of Commerce as well as being shared/discussed with key committees and leadership of the Idaho Legislature.
- The faculty, staff, and students (both graduate and undergraduate) of the college have a vested interest in the development of appropriate research programs of high quality that are responsive to needs of the state and region. This university stakeholder group is an important source of valuable input to the IAES and play a major role in IAES program development and delivery. In the course of performing their research, the majority of researchers in the IAES have frequent and substantive contact with stakeholders in their research programs as has been indicated above. An array of inputs regarding program directions and priorities are more informally received in this manner and are subsequently considered and often implemented.

The college has expanded its involvement with stakeholders by forming advisory committees for each of the eight academic departments in CALS. As of 2002, all departments of CALS have established advisory committees. These committees (ranging between 6 to 12 members) are composed from a broad base of stakeholders sharing interest in the disciplines, programs, and strategic plans of the departments. These committees are now serving as a significant additional source of stakeholder input for the IAES and CALS. In addition, once a year in on-campus meetings the departmental advisory committees meet with the CALS and IEAS leadership as well as with the Dean's Advisory Council on program priorities and directions for the college, the experiment station and the departments.

Finally, in preparation for our next Plan of Work for both research and extension programming, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is currently conducting a large, random, state-wide survey of citizens/households regarding what our program priorities/areas of emphasis should be. When completed, the results of this survey, along with other inputs, will be used to help formulate our next Plan of Work for both research and extension programs.