

**Agricultural Education Leadership Council Meeting
October 12, 2005**

Attending

<p><u>Cornell University</u> Dean Susan Henry Bill Camp, Agricultural Education Helene Dillard, Cornell Cooperative Extension Glenn Applebee, Cornell Cooperative Extension Travis Park, Agricultural Education Perry Dewey, Ag Outreach & Education Donna Moore, Ag Outreach & Education <u>SUNY Oswego</u> Susan Camp, Vocational Teacher Preparation <u>SUNY Alfred</u> Melvin Chambliss, Dept. of Agriculture & Horticulture Dorothea Fitzsimmons, Animal Science <u>SUNY Cobleskill</u> Douglas Goodale, Dean of Agriculture Terry Hughes, NY Ag Tech Prep <u>SUNY Morrisville</u> Jim VanRiper, Interim Vice Pres. of Academic Affairs</p>	<p><u>NY Department of Agriculture & Market</u> Ray Christensen, Special Assistant <u>NY Department of Education</u></p> <p><u>NY Farm Bureau</u> Sandi Prokop, NY Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc. <u>NY Association of Agriculture Educators</u> Tara Berisick, President <u>NY Association of FFA Board of Trustees</u> Pat Ploetz, Chairperson <u>NY FFA Leadership Training Foundation</u> Todd Lighthall, Director Bill Ransom, Funding Director</p>
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Agenda:

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed for corrections and revisions.

Report of the Executive Committee:

Presentation of the New Model for Agricultural Education Programs through the Department of Education at Cornell University – *Agricultural Outreach & Education*. [See Attachment A](#)

State of NY Ag Ed Annual Report – presentation of the proposal for a professional document that will represent Agricultural Education throughout New York. Proposal was accepted with suggestions. [See Attachment B](#)

It was moved by T. Berisick, seconded M. Chambliss, to accept the Executive Committee Report, motion passed.

Report of the Task Force for Strategic Plan regarding industry workforce needs, attracting young people, and preparing them for careers.

Presented by Todd Lighthall, NY FFA Leadership Training Foundation Director. Susan Henry requested that Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension add information to the final report. Bill Ransom presented a proposal to investigate the development of the Existing FFA Building on the State Fair Grounds. [See Attachment C](#).

Council moved to appoint a committee to investigate status of the State Fair Building, moved S. Camp, seconded P. Ploetz, motion passed. S. Camp will

serve as Chairperson. Other committee members are T. Berisick, P. Ploetz, M. Chambliss, and two 4H staff people appointed by G. Applebee.

The task to the committee is to investigate the options for securing a new agricultural education building at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. The committee will report their findings at the April meeting.

Susan Henry suggested that Career Development Event sponsorship proposals be given to each of the colleges to assist in funding .

Susan Henry introduced Dr. Mary Jo Dudley, Director of the Cornell Migrant Worker Program. Council members were given a copy of the press release regarding Dr. Dudley's appointment.

Report from the Task Force charged to investigate providing in-service training for agricultural workers already in the industry.

Glenn Applebee reported that their committee found that an appropriate role for the Council was to provide support for a proposals submitted to the Farm Viability Institute. SUNY Alfred submitted a proposal and the Council Chairperson sent a letter of support for the project.

Dorothea Fitzsimmons provided a report on the grassland management project that establishes a model farm for grazing livestock. The audience for the program will be farm workers, owners, and students. The educational program format will be a series of short courses, with off-site options available.

Tara Berisick reported on the educational materials for food safety and sanitation that have been developed for farm workers and the general public by the Good Agricultural Practices project based out of the Food Science Department at Cornell University.

Report from the Task Force appointed to investigate increased effectiveness & accountability of agricultural education programs

Sandie Prokop reported that work has begun to compile a list of all agriculture organizations that might have some agricultural education components. The next step for the task force will be to contact the organizations and ask each what they may be doing in education. These organizations may be doing specific programs that need to be networked with the larger agricultural education community. Any organizations with agricultural education components will be added to our communications networks.

Accountability of agricultural education programs: Bill Camp reported the work is continuing on the agricultural education assessment project. The revised assessment will be pilot tested this spring.

Report on the development of the Council web page. D. Moore provided a progress report. The site should be up and running by the end of the semester.

National Council for Agricultural Education – Bill Camp reported on the Council's national initiatives.

The next meeting of the NY Agricultural Education Leadership Council will be at SUNY Morrisville in April 2006.

Agricultural Outreach and Education

**Department of Education
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cornell University**

Agricultural Outreach and Education is an extension education component of the Department of Education at Cornell University. Its intent is to promote a continuum of agricultural educational, broadly defined; from pre-K through adult that includes agricultural awareness, agricultural literacy, and formal agricultural education programs. It partners with and provides services to other agricultural entities dedicated to advancing agricultural education, broadly defined, for the people of New York State. Four major areas of responsibility for the program are envisioned and will be detailed in this proposal:

- ◇ Secondary Agricultural Education,
- ◇ Agricultural Awareness and Literacy,
- ◇ Postsecondary Professional Development,
- ◇ Focused State-Level Leadership.

Goals

To advance the agricultural education agenda within those four major areas of responsibility, the Agricultural Outreach and Education proposes the following overarching goals:

- ◇ Provide extension and outreach that sustains and develops agricultural education in formal and non-formal educational settings.
- ◇ Increase the number and distribution of agricultural education programs from pre-K through postsecondary levels throughout New York State.
- ◇ Provide agricultural education professional development and inservice activities for elementary through postsecondary teachers.
- ◇ Develop and disseminate agricultural literacy and formal agricultural education instructional and curriculum materials that support the New York State Learning Standards and provide school districts with educational programming that augments student achievement in state mandated testing.
- ◇ Develop and sustain a network of agriculture stakeholders who promote and disseminating information about agricultural education awareness.
- ◇ Provide and support leadership activities in agricultural education at state and national levels.

Rationale

The population of New York State has shifted from predominately agrarian to predominantly urban and suburban. In the new century we will continue to witness an increasing proportion of our citizens who have no direct ties to the land or to food and fiber production for multiple generations. This detachment from the land characterizes the vast majority of students enrolled in our public school system. As our society has become increasingly disconnected from the food and fiber system and its producers, we have witnessed a growing perception in our urban and suburban segments that modern agricultural practices are harmful and destructive to the environment. An urgent and growing need exists for our people to understand the nature and value of agriculture and the necessary function that it plays in providing safe and reliable food and fiber.

A generation of leaders and citizens is needed who understand the complexities involved in agricultural production, processing, marketing, policy, and stewardship of our natural resources. Educational programs must help the next generation discover how we can balance natural resource issues and create sustainable rural communities that enhance quality of life for families while promoting economic vitality through agriculture and related food and fiber system enterprises.

Child wellness, through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and proper eating habits in New York State and our nation's schools, has become a recent focus of school policy. Within this issue is a need for understanding of where and how food is produced and processed. Programs such as Farm to School, Orchard to Table, and Kids Growing Food provide an educational forum for schools that aid in addressing these needs. Other programs exist and are in the developmental stages that also address child nutrition and food safety issues.

Agriculture has received increased attention in the news media, some of which has created a negative public image of production practices used by modern agriculturalists. Stereotypical views of agriculture and misunderstood production practices are a deterrent to students entering into careers in agriculture. Agricultural awareness and literacy can be key components in dispelling these views. It is important to continue the successful efforts of the past and create innovative ways in the future to reach educational institutions with accurate agricultural curriculum that will meet the needs of the New York State students.

Plan of Activities

The current secondary Agricultural Education program goes back almost a century and far longer in earlier forms. New York Agriculture in the Classroom has been in existence for just over 20 years. Those existing programs must be strengthened and refocused to address the emerging issues and the changing landscape of New York's population and economy. This proposed project will position Agricultural Outreach and Education to provide expanded leadership in both of those areas. In addition, this proposal includes an expanded role in state level leadership through the New York Agricultural Education Leadership Council. Finally, this proposal includes a new initiative in support of the postsecondary agricultural education programs in New York State.

Ongoing Initiative: Secondary Agricultural Education Leadership

Agricultural Outreach and Education proposes to continue serving a primary leadership role for the secondary level agricultural education program in New York State. Program staff members will:

- ◇ Conduct research, including needs assessments to determine the inservice and professional development needs of secondary teachers of agricultural education.
- ◇ Develop, deliver, and evaluate appropriate inservice and professional development programs, including but not limited to workshops to meet those needs.
- ◇ Organize, manage, and evaluate fall leadership development activities for secondary students/FFA members; induction assistance services for beginning teachers of agriculture including beginning teacher workshops, individual assistance visits, and an agricultural education mentoring program; and student organization leadership development events.
- ◇ Identify school districts that need secondary agricultural education programs and provide them with assistance in developing those programs.
- ◇ Assist in the identification and recruitment of potential agricultural education teachers.
- ◇ Work with existing teacher education programs that provide New York State certification for agricultural education teachers in expanding the number of teachers trained in traditional teacher education.
- ◇ Work with teacher education programs in developing non-traditional preparation programs that will train highly qualified teachers of agricultural education in the sense of current federal and state policies, who understand the nature of the agricultural education program and are trained to offer quality instruction to their students.
- ◇ Explore the establishment of a middle school program for agricultural education in New York schools.
- ◇ Serve the roles of state supervisor of agricultural education, state FFA advisor, and executive secretary of the New York FFA Association.
- ◇ Represent New York State Agricultural Education in regional and national roles as appropriate.

Expanded Initiative: Agricultural Awareness and Literacy

The traditional Agriculture in the Classroom program has been aimed at increasing agricultural awareness and literacy for New York's youth, focusing primarily on elementary level students. Those efforts should continue, but should be expanded to include a more systematic food system and agricultural awareness program aimed at a broader audience. That goal cannot be reached by current program staff alone, so Agricultural Outreach and Education program staff will:

- ◇ Conduct research to identify existing programs throughout New York State that are already offering agricultural awareness and literacy education programs at all levels.
- ◇ Organize annual state-wide agricultural awareness and literacy conferences to promote a more coordinated system of such programs.
- ◇ Work with other agricultural education stakeholders to identify other venues that will reach non-traditional audiences and promote agricultural education through participation in those events.
- ◇ Enhance the Kids Growing Food and Integrated Pest Management practices by adapting and developing a curricular framework that integrates agricultural literacy concepts into NYS learning standards-based lessons at the preK-4 grade level.
- ◇ Conduct a national search to identify out-of-state curriculum and materials that address the needs of New York agricultural awareness and literacy programs.
- ◇ Provide the leadership to cross-walk NY Learning Standards with materials developed outside of New York.
- ◇ Build a web-based clearinghouse for lessons, tips, kits, strategies, agricultural and career information, research, ideas, resources, and virtual field trips for teachers and schools growing food at school and teaching other food systems related topics.
- ◇ Provide Food System and Integrated Pest Management teacher workshops open to any teacher interested in school gardening or otherwise growing food in schools.
- ◇ Coordinate efforts to pair farmers, Cornell Cooperative Extension personnel, agriculture teachers, and other agriculture stakeholders with elementary schools in an organized effort to expand agricultural awareness and literacy programs at the elementary school level.
- ◇ Serve as Director of New York AITC.
- ◇ Represent New York State at regional and national AITC functions as appropriate.

New Initiative: Postsecondary Professional Development

Agricultural Outreach and Education proposes to conduct detailed needs assessments to identify and coordinate inservice and professional development of instructors in agricultural education in the postsecondary learning community. At the present time there is no formal inservice programming for post secondary agricultural educators within the state in these areas. As agricultural and related occupations grow in complexity, an increasingly well trained work force is needed to maintain and strengthen the economy of New York State. Instruction in agricultural sciences, business, and technology are vital to the future of the State. Agricultural Outreach and Education staff will:

- ◇ Conduct research, including needs assessments to determine the inservice and professional development needs of postsecondary teachers of agricultural education.

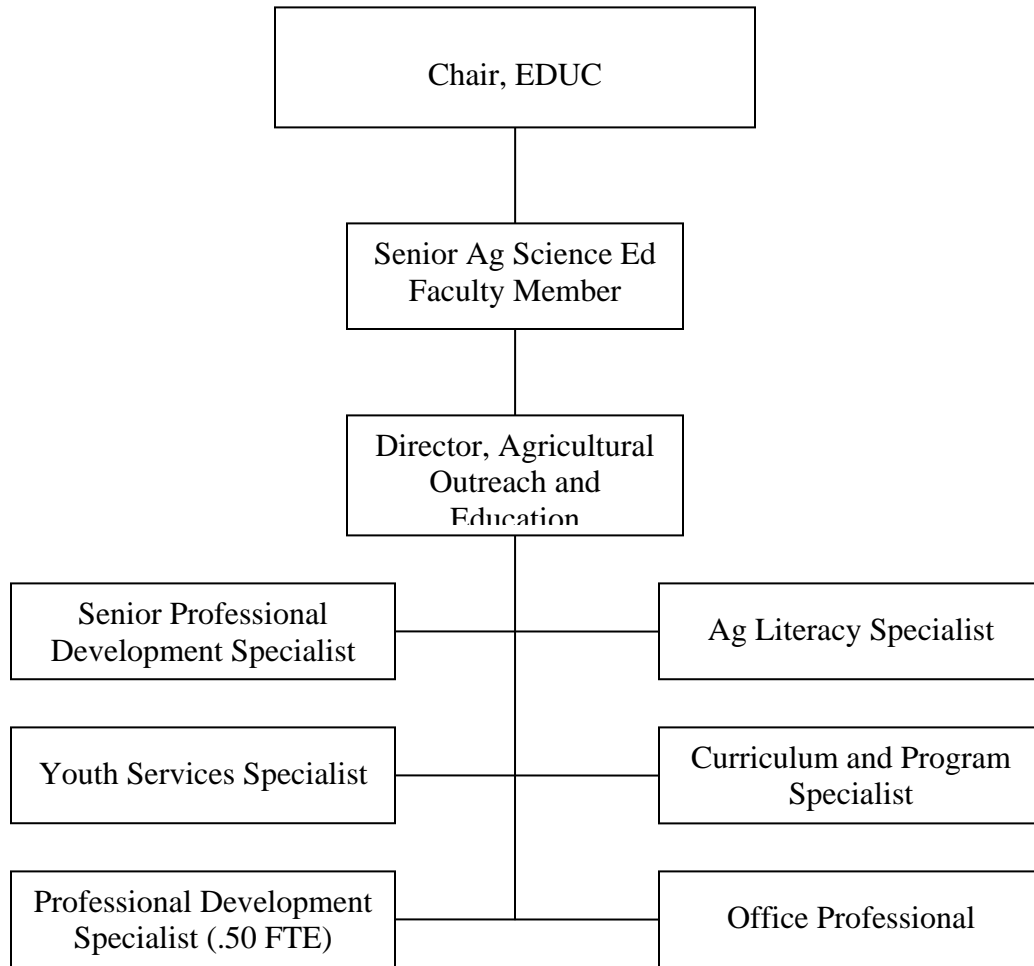
- ◇ Identify existing technical and professional development programs and coordinate efforts to communicate those opportunities to postsecondary agricultural educators.
- ◇ Develop, deliver, and evaluate appropriate technical and professional development programs where existing programs are not available.

Expanded Initiative: Focused State-Level Leadership

Agricultural Outreach and Education proposes to provide an expanded role in support of the New York State Agricultural Education Leadership Council (The Council). The Council is intended to serve the people of New York State through coordinated agricultural education efforts at all levels. It represents a diverse group of educational institutions and agricultural industry leaders from across the state. Its mission is to improve and provide support to agricultural education at all levels within New York State. Yet, The Council exists as a group of volunteers without direct staff support. Through the operational tenure of The Council, it has become evident that there is a need for research efforts that will provide data in which will guide the decision making processes of the group and staff support with time allocated to coordinate its efforts. Both qualitative and quantitative information needs to be compiled to measure the educational impact of the agricultural education programming that currently exists within the state. Agricultural Outreach and Education staff will:

- ◇ Conduct research, including needs assessments to determine program and curriculum needs based on real-world data for use by members of The Council in long range planning and policy setting.
- ◇ Conduct outcomes analysis of agricultural education programming at all levels to provide The Council with data for program evaluation and improvement.
- ◇ Organize and maintain newsletters, both hard copy and electronic, web sites, discussion boards, and listservs as needed by the various constituency groups and professional organizations including, but not limited to:
 - The Council,
 - The New York Association of Agricultural Educators,
 - New York FFA Association,
 - New York Agriculture in the Classroom,
 - New York FFA Educational Foundation and Camp Oswegatchie.
- ◇ Serve as Executive Secretary to The Council

Provide administrative support to The Council.



**State of Agricultural Education
NY Ag Ed Leadership Council
Publication Proposal**

Who is our target audience?

- ❖ State & Local Leaders and Decision Makers
- ❖ School Administrators
- ❖ School Board Members
- ❖ General Public

Purpose:

- ❖ Provide an annual showcase of New York State Agricultural Education pre k – adult.

Include the following:

- ❖ Statement about agricultural education from the State Education Department
- ❖ Statement about agricultural education from the Department of Agriculture & Markets
- ❖ Number of active Ag In The Classroom schools/school gardens and total for duration of the program
 - Include highlights of the program
- ❖ Number of elementary/middle school teachers that participated in agricultural literacy workshops .
- ❖ Description of non-formal agricultural literacy initiatives lead by NY Farm Bureau
- ❖ Number of middle school and high school students enrolled in agricultural education programs.
- ❖ Number of middle/high school agricultural education programs
 - Identify new programs
- ❖ Number of FFA members
 - Include highlights of leadership events
- ❖ Postsecondary institutions
 - Program areas/majors offered
 - Number of students enrolled
- ❖ Pictures to represent the programs

Quality/type of publication:

- ❖ Two-color
- ❖ Double-sided, 11 x 17 folded (four pages)

Annual Timeline:

- ❖ All institutions & organizations will submit materials by October 30
- ❖ The publication will be prepared by the Ag Ed Outreach & Education Staff
- ❖ The draft will be approved by the Council Executive Committee by December 30
- ❖ The publication will be printed for distribution in January

How will this be distributed?

- ❖ Mailing
 - Legislative offices
 - School Administrators
 - School Board members in Rural Schools Program
 - Council of Ag Organization members
- ❖ PDF on the Ag Ed Leadership Council web page

Printing Costs:

Providing a Workforce for the Future of Agriculture

**A Task Force Report Presented to the
New York Agriculture Education Leadership Council
October 12, 2005
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York**

Present by

**William Stowell
Melvin Chambliss
Jim VanRiper**

Introduction:

The New York Agriculture Education Council (Council) represents the commitment of the institutions with substantial interest in agricultural education to manage their separate and collaborative programs and resources in a coordinated manner to achieve common objectives. These include deepening public understanding of the agricultural and food industry, increasing the effectiveness and accountability of agricultural education programs, and addressing industry workforce needs ranging from attracting young people to and preparing them for agricultural careers to providing in-service training for those already working in the industry. The Council attends to strategic and policy issues needing analysis, deliberation, and decision making among and by leaders of the member institutions.

Task Force Charge

This particular task force was charged by the Council with the following:

1. Identification of industry workforce needs (ranging from attracting young people to preparing them for agricultural careers).
2. To develop a list of 2 - 10 points addressing collaborative efforts across the organizations within the Council.

Members of this task force surveyed (via email) the members of this Council and constituents of the leadership organizations represented by said Council to determine what activities/programs were currently being utilized to recruit students into the agriculture industry AND to brainstorm possible activities/programs that could be initiated as a collaborative effort to recruit young people into agriculture careers. The result of the aforementioned survey follows.

1. Identification of Industry Workforce Needs:

According to the American Farm Bureau (2004), Agriculture generates 22 million jobs in the United States...most of which are off farms. Less than 2 million Americans actively farm but are efficient enough to produce 16 percent of the world's food supply. Today's agriculture industry is science-based, high tech and offers an array of career possibilities ranging from animal and plant researchers, food scientists, commodity brokers, nutritionists, agricultural journalists, bankers, market analysts, sales professionals, food processors, forest managers, wildlife specialists...just to name a few.

In 1999, the United State Department of Agriculture released a report that predicted students with science and marketing skills will be the most sought after by employers in the agriculture industry. According to a new Purdue-USDA study, Food Scientists and Engineers will be in high demand representing 32 percent of the employment demand. Marketing and Sales positions would represent the next largest group with 28 percent of the agriculture employment demand. According to Allan Goecker, associate director of academic programs in the Purdue School of Agriculture, "Annual Job openings for US food and agricultural sciences graduates are projected to be around 58,000, while the number of graduates for those jobs will be slightly more than 57,000. Fewer employment opportunities are expected in Forest Production, Veterinary Medicine General Practices, and for some government agencies". Goecker states that Graduates who add value to raw materials produced by farmers and market those products both here and abroad will see expanding employment opportunities.

Nathan L. Rudgers, New York State Commissioner of Agriculture, provided additional support for the need to increase the number of young people entering the agriculture industry workforce when he delivered a presentation entitled "Preparing Entrepreneurs for the Future of NY Agriculture" to the Council on April 16, 2003. In his presentation, Rudgers predicted that New York State would need between 6,000 – 7,000 managers to meet agriculture industry needs through the year 2013. The diversity of the agriculture industry in New York State will require a workforce that has a strong marketing background. Management and marketing career opportunities will exist not only in the state number one industry – dairy, but also in Wineries, Apple Farms, Environmental Related Occupations, Nursery & Landscape, and the Equine Industry.

2. Collaborative efforts to attract young people and train them for Agriculture Careers:

Current Recruitment Efforts:

A. Morrisville State College

- Maintaining a College Website
- Providing a College View book
- Providing program fact sheets
- Hosting individual student/family visitations
- Conducting all College Saturday visitations and open houses
- Phoning prospective students
- Radio, TV, print media and bill board advertising
- Developing articulation agreements

Agricultural Majors are also recruited by;

- Attending tradeshow, conferences, & fairs. Setting up displays (usually staffed)
- Providing In-service training for teachers
- Hosting events on campus; envirothon, contests, Ag Day events, etc
- Provide dual credit courses to high school students

Enrollment goals are established by determining the capacity of the program. Usually one factor becomes the limiting factor in determining capacity; student/faculty ration, room sizes, amount of equipment available, number of horses, etc. Morrisville's current target enrollment for Agriculture is 600.

Curriculum development and assessment are ongoing processes. New programs are developed based upon needs assessments. Faculty under the guidance of industry leadership determines the content of the curriculum. Existing programs go through periodic program review that includes the preparation of a self-study by the faculty that is reviewed by a visiting external review team made up of industry and education experts.

Most programs/departments have industry advisory boards.

I would say that we provide adequate services to potential students (already interested in Ag) that help them make a decision about which program or college they want to attend rather than to attract students to agricultural professions. Generally I would say that there is plenty of capacity at our Ag Colleges and that we have a good mix of programs. The trick is to get students who do not already have a background or interest in Ag to look at Ag as a possible career.

B. SUNY Cobleskill

Admissions counselors "on the road"
Regional recruiters
Faculty / staff participation in professional organizations and trade shows
Exhibits at county and State Fair
Dairy and Beef Judging
High School Day activity on campus
Organize and conduct selected regional and State FFA and 4-H contests
Coordinate College in the High School program / courses
Staff booth at College Fairs
Perkins funded programs - such as trout in the classroom

Goals:

1. Target in Agriculture and Natural Resources = 950 students
 - A. 50% in the Bachelor of Technology majors
 - B. 50% in the Associate in Applied Science Programs
2. Entry standards
 - A. Minimum entry from High School = 75 average
 - B. Minimum SAT = 950; Minimum ACT = 17

Goals and Entry Standards are set by:

1. Set by mutual agreement between the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Dean, the Department Heads
2. Input into setting entry standards from the Director of Admissions
3. Industry needs as noted by program specific advisory committees ... this guides the development of program quotas
4. Number of faculty, facilities available and finance to support programs also significantly influences target goals

Curriculum Development:

1. Current student and advisory committee input guides new curriculum selection and existing curriculum modifications.
2. Industry employment trends guide curriculum development.
3. Academic program review is a significant factor as it includes input from graduates, current students and advisory committees.
4. A panel of experts as an external review team is invited to campus as part of the academic program review.

Advisory Boards...

1. Each department has an advisory committee that meets at various times as needed.
2. The advisory committee members are nominated by the faculty to the VPAA and in turn, to the President. The committee members are actually appointed by the College Council.

C. SUNY Oswego:

Admissions counselors "on the road" and at college fairs
Volunteer to judge in selected regional and State FFA and 4-H contests

Goals / numbers?

1. Target in Agricultural Education major--20 total graduate and undergraduate
2. Entry standards--minimum 2.5 gpa from UG institution

How are goals and entry standards set?

1. Departmental discussions

How is the curriculum prepared?

1. NCATE, AAEE standards, INTASC standards, National Board standards.

D. Alfred State

Alfred State's Admissions Office Coordinates

Spring and Fall College Open Houses

High School Mini-Visits

Shadow programs(prospective students come to campus and stays with a student in the curriculum they are looking at and spends two days shadowing them)

Admissions travels to regional High School Career Days

High School Councilor Annual Program Tours at Alfred State

The Agriculture and Horticulture Department faculty coordinates and/or participates in

Annual Agriculture Skills Contest for High School FFA Ag students

Annual Summer Dairy Judging Contest For FFA and 4H Ag students (Top student receives a \$250.00 scholarship to ASC for Ag or Vet tech)

Dairy Animals are entered in regional shows and the Allegany County Fair (Student volunteers show these animals)

Dairy Judging Team (competing nationally and internationally)

VICA high school contest (primarily tractor driving)

Developing High School Articulation Agreements

Setting up Faculty manned booths at the trade shows, State Fair annually and High School Career days.

Sending out program information packages to prospective students

Annually in the Ag Educators in -service spring seminars

Professional Organizations related to their programs (regional, national and international)

Student enrollment goals:

Our enrollment is dictated currently by faculty numbers. We are currently looking at changes in our Ag program offerings to better serve the Western NY and Northern PA students we attract.

We hope to increase Agriculture program faculty by 2-3, Veterinary Technology program faculty by 2-3 and the Landscape Development faculty by 1-2 in the near future.

Our student enrolment goals are 150 - 200 first year students in the Agriculture and Horticulture Department. Again our numbers are dictated by faculty numbers and we are currently working with the Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs to establish a hiring format for the department

Suggestions/Brainstorming Ideas...

- request that Ag and Markets support this unified effort by developing posters and perhaps even radio and television commercials promoting Ag careers and Ag

education at all of our institutions. The posters could be provided to all elementary and jr. high-level students. We could also ask them for assistance in developing an Ag careers coloring book for distribution at fairs and trade shows, we have to instill these ideas in our young people those that are 5-10 years old! We cannot focus on the 11th and 12th graders, as you know they have developed their bias's at that point.

- develop some way to instill certificate courses that would be centered around current techniques in farming, covering...
 1. Regional techniques for better forage growth
 2. Managing and communicating with the migrant farm worker
 3. Quality farm management practices for the small to medium sized farms (hobby farms)
 4. Alternatives in Dairy and Beef operations

Also, look very closely at the fruit and vegetable industry and find out where we can impact those industries with better trained and qualified employees.

- develop a recruitment strategy, we all attend Empire Farm Days and the Syracuse Farm show to recruit and make people aware of our individual programs, is there some way we all can recruit for Ag careers as a unit knowing that students will make there own choices as to the institution they will attend. Unity is what will allow Agriculture to move forward.
- Agriculture Literacy is paramount to successful agriculture recruitment. Many times we are just "Preaching to the Choir" when we have agriculture displays at the Farm Show or Empire Farm Days...although we should continuing providing a "Presence" at these events. We need a venue to reach a lot of "none ag people" where we can provide agriculture literacy and contact information for starting agriculture programs and pursuing agricultural careers. The New York State Fair would be an excellent venue for such a task. Thousands of people go to the fair every year and walk through the Agriculture Education Building. We have an awesome opportunity to reach and teach people. The Agriculture Education Building could house people and displays from all our colleges and institutions offering agriculture career options. In addition, it could showcase our FFA members learning by doing. However, in order to accomplish this task we would need to expand the current facility or build a new building. Mr. Bill Ransom, co-superintendent for agriculture education at the State Fair, has a suggested floor plan for the council to consider.

(SUGGESTED STATE FAIR BUILDING FLOOR PLAN – Bill Ransom)