

## Department of Animal Science

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Degrees covered in this report:

Number of graduates:

B.S., Animal Science	200
M.S. and M.Ag., Animal Science: Food Science	12
Ph.D., Animal Nutrition: Animal Breeding and Reproduction; Food Science	3

LEARNING OUTCOME	ASSESSMENT	NUMBER ASSESSED
1. Graduates can solve industry related problems.	Problem solving exercises	
2. Graduates can interpret the scientific literature and can apply that information to industry and societal concerns.	Oral and written reports in capstone class	
3. Graduates can compete successfully with students from other institutions.	National and Regional Judging Contests	44
	Quiz Bowl competitions	9
4. Graduates display satisfaction with their education experience.	Exit discussions and survey in capstone class	17+
	Alumni Survey: Graduate Undergraduate	

### 1. Student Learning Outcome

Graduates can solve industry related problems.

#### a. Assessment Method used to Assess this Outcome

Problem solving exercises in upper division courses (3333, 3493, 4123, 4543, 4423, 4613, 4553, 4633)

#### b. Description of this Assessment and Results

Each of these courses, especially the 4000 level courses, has a significant component of assignments that is devoted to solving problems related to food and/or livestock production. Students are expected to put together large plans for farms and ranches and/or food processing plants, to examine various alternatives for conduct of the business. These exercises are graded by the faculty members in charge of the courses. In general, the faculty believe that the student performance on these exercises is good and demonstrates a good general knowledge of the various enterprises included in the content of the courses. However, they also express concern based on the lowered level of previous experience among students in our department.

#### c. Faculty Interpretation of Results of this Assessment, Relative to this Expected Student Learning Outcome

The concern expressed by faculty, based on level of previous experience with livestock production, in student's ability to place their knowledge base into practical settings is real. As more students in Animal Science come to OSU without prior background in livestock production, we need to develop approaches to adapt to these new types of students.

#### d. Changes that have Resulted from this Assessment

Faculty in charge of the prerequisite courses for the aforementioned junior and senior level courses have, over time, incorporated more information pertaining to the basic understanding of the various livestock industries. This information would have been part of the knowledge base of incoming students in Animal Science in former years. However, as the experience

levels of incoming students has changed, the types of information provided in prerequisite courses has also had to change.

## 2. Student Learning Outcome

Graduates can interpret the scientific literature and can apply that information to industry and societal concerns.

### a. Assessment Method used to Assess this Outcome

Oral and written reports of drawn from research literature in Capstone class (4863).

Thesis or dissertation from research for completion of graduate degrees.

### b. Description of this Assessment and Results

Oral and written reports based on research literature are delivered in the Capstone class (ANSI 4863). The quality of the oral reports is quite high and is relatively uniform. Each semester, one or two students fails to perform well but the large majority of the students takes the assignment seriously and delivers a thoughtful, carefully studied presentation. All are delivered via Powerpoint and the students also learn the importance of various delivery techniques in delivering complex technical information.

Theses and dissertations in the department, as well as the seminars delivered by students as they complete their M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are generally quite good. The research included in these documents represents important activity sponsored by the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station.

### c. Faculty Interpretation of Results of this Assessment, Relative to this Expected Student Learning Outcome

Faculty expectations of these assessments are high and are generally met by the students. This is encouraging. At the same time, there is always faculty concern about whether quality is being maintained.

### d. Changes that have Resulted from this Assessment

There has been gradual expansion, over time, of information provided to students, both undergraduate and graduate, on how to access information in the library and on the internet and on how to deliver information using Powerpoint.

## 3. Student Learning Outcome

Graduates can compete successfully with students from other institutions.

### a. Assessment Method used to Assess this Outcome

National and Regional Judging Contests and Quiz Bowl competitions

### b. Describe this Assessment and Results

Students compete among other students at OSU for the right to represent OSU at these national and regional competitions.

Participation in the Academic Quadrathlon (4 students) - Southern Section American Society of Animal Science (2<sup>nd</sup> place)

Institute of Food Technology Regional Quiz Bowl (5 students) – competed

Horse Judging Team (4 members) – entered 4 contests and finished 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Livestock Judging Team (20 team members) - entered 11 national contests and finished 7<sup>th</sup>,

2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meat Judging Team (15 team members) - entered 7 national contests and finished 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dairy Judging Team (4 team members) – entered 3 national contests and finished 12<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

One Animal Science senior was recognized as Top 10 Senior in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources There were 11 Animal Science students initiated into Phi Kappa Phi.

**c. Faculty Interpretation of Results of this Assessment, Relative to this Expected Student Learning Outcome**

These students performed well in these competitions. This suggests to us that our students are competitive with other institutions with similar goals for students.

Although not a competition, like these listed, it is also a source of pride that the OSU Department of Animal Science generally has undergraduate students from at least 30 other states even though each state has, at its Land-Grant University, a Department with similar student opportunities.

**d. Changes that have Resulted from this Assessment**

Students from this department have participated in national judging contests for more than 70 years. The method for selecting students and encouraging participation has not changed much in the last several years. The Quadrathlon and the Institute for Food Technology Quiz Bowl are much more recent in origin.

**4. Student Learning Outcome**

Graduates display satisfaction with their education experience.

**a. Assessment Method used to Assess this Outcome**

Exit discussions and survey in capstone class.  
Surveys conducted by assessment office.

**b. Description of this Assessment and Results**

All students in the senior capstone class (which represents a high proportion of the graduating class) participate in an exit discussion. This discussion is far reaching and many topics are discussed. Some themes are common from semester to semester. For example, when asked what irritates them about OSU they always answer "Parking". The students are generally complimentary of the department and the university in general. Concerns expressed frequently center on difficulties with lack of uniformity in advising. Surveys of graduate and undergraduate students also present a generally complimentary view.

The Graduate Alumni Survey provided many interesting results. The central result was that graduate students are satisfied. All of the surveyed M.S. alumni were either "generally satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their graduate program. Among the 17 Ph.D. alumni surveyed, only one expressed anything other than "generally satisfied" or "very satisfied".

The Undergraduate Alumni Survey also presented several interesting results. In total, the satisfaction level seems high. More than 80 percent of the respondents rated the program highly on a variety of questions. Like the discussion in the capstone class, many of the criticisms seem to center on advisement.

**c. Faculty Interpretation of Results of this Assessment, Relative to this Expected Student Learning Outcome**

Criticisms concerning advising are met with mixed views by the faculty. On the one hand, faculty are anxious to do a good job and receive criticism with an attitude of wanting to do things better. On the other hand, some of the problems arise from the freedom students have to change classes without the consent or encouragement of the advisor. This makes the student, in effect, his/her own advisor and they do not always make the best decisions. We continue to work on these issues.

**d. Changes that have Resulted from this Assessment**

The Department of Animal Science has 11 different options. This is a large number although we have a large number of students. We have, during the last two years, streamlined several of the option sheets so that they are easier to understand and so that students and advisors have more flexibility.