

Update from Dairy Science Curriculum

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Summary and Implications

Enrollment in the Dairy Science Curriculum remained strong in 2010, but declined from the previous year due to a drop in transfer students this past year. Career placement remained excellent at 100 percent of graduates reporting placement or acceptance to professional schools for continued education.

The biggest change in Dairy Science in 2010 was the departure of Ilene Carlson, secretary to the dairy teaching group for 35 years.

Enrollment and Placement Remain Strong

The Animal Science Department enrollment set a record for the fifth year in a row: 864 students. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) enrollment was 3298, up more than 200 students from 2009. ISU enrollment recorded a second record year in a row at 28,682, up over 700 from last year (see Table 1). Dairy Science enrollment dropped from 66 to 56 due to a large graduating class in 2009 and a drop in transfer students in 2010. Transfer student admissions in Dairy Science have tended to be cyclical, with alternate years of high and low enrollment.

Table 1 contains selected enrollment information. As the Animal Science department approaches 900 undergraduate students, concern has been raised about the ability to accommodate this dramatically increasing population in courses and laboratories.

Table 1. Fall 2010 Enrollment at Iowa State University.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	715
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	56
General Preveterinary students*	93
Total, department undergraduates	864
Animal Science graduate students	92
Total, department	956
Total undergrads, College of Ag/Life Sci	3,298
Total, Iowa State University	28,682

* 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.

The current Dairy Science enrollment goal is to reach and maintain 75 to 80 majors annually. This number will more closely match demand for our students in career and professional school opportunities. The 2010 CALs Career Services report showed that Dairy Science graduates again

achieved 100 percent placement. Average salaries for 2010 were about \$38,000.

Please note that there is more information about the department's teaching programs included in 'Update from Animal Science Teaching Section' found in the Teaching Section of the Animal Industry Reports.

Changes: An Era Comes to an End

Spring semester 2010 began a new era in Dairy Science. Ilene Carlson retired at the end of December 2009 after 35 years at the front desk in 119 Kildee. Ilene had been the guiding force at the front desk for two generations of Dairy Science Students. She had served as information source, informal advisor, and mother-confessor to over 700 students graduating from Dairy Science over those 35 years. She was also an invaluable source of information and continuity to students, staff, and faculty. She has been greatly missed over the past year.

After Ilene retired, the students and faculty hosted a retirement reception for her in advance of the 2010 Dairy Science Banquet. The event was so successful, that it was termed the 'first annual' Ilene Carlson retirement reception and will be repeated again on March 5, 2011, as an opportunity for alumni to gather with Ilene and celebrate dairy science friendships.

A New Addition to the Dairy Science Team

Joining the teaching group in 2010 was Dr. Aileen Keating. Dr. Keating comes to us from the University of Arizona. She joined the Physiology Section and will continue research in reproductive toxicology. Her teaching assignment will include sharing responsibilities for AnS214 – domestic animal anatomy and physiology.

Dairy Science Honors

The 2009 Dairy Science Banquet honored Dan Sivesind as Honorary Member and Ron Lenth as Distinguished Graduate. Both men have had long and prestigious careers in the dairy industry and have had tremendous positive impact on the ISU Dairy Science Club. The 2011 honorees will be Dr. Les Hansen as Distinguished Graduate and Ms. Ilene Carlson as Honorary Member. Dr. Hansen has had tremendous impact in the dairy genetics area through his career at University of Minnesota, and Ilene Carlson is being honored for her years of mentoring and service as the Dairy Science curriculum secretary.

Discussion

The past year has been one of significant change for Dairy Science. Change sometimes comes with challenges, but often with great opportunity for new directions in the future. To follow Dairy Science at ISU, change and

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challenge, visit the following website:
<http://www.ans.iastate.edu/species/dairy/> , or specifically,

the Dairy Science Club at:
<http://www.ans.iastate.edu/clubs/dairy/> .