Program Assessment Report
DBCALFS ANSC PhD Program
University of Arkansas
Academic Year 2018-2019

1. **Animal Science Department, B111 AFLS, 575-3745**

2. **Department Mission:**

   The Department of Animal Science shall be a leading authority of animal agriculture by means of innovative research, teaching and extension programs for all Arkansans and the world.

3. **Program Goals:** The Department of Animal Science will 1) perform research from discovery to application that benefits the production efficiency, animal health/well-being, food safety/security, and sustainability of animal agriculture, **2) recruit, educate, and prepare for the future, a new generation of citizens that will provide expertise in food production, animal health/well-being, as well as human health and nutrition,** and 3) provide research-based livestock and forage information through non-formal educational methods for the sustainability and management of agricultural production systems to improve Arkansans quality of life.

4. **Student Learning Outcome #1:**
   Graduate students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of statistics, an in-depth knowledge of their specific thesis research area and a general knowledge of other research in the Department. Areas of emphasis may include animal nutrition, genetics, physiology, muscle foods, parasitology and forages.

   - Assessment Measure 1
     - Completion of the dissertation and successful defense to the faculty, turning in dissertation to graduate school.
     - Indirect
     - Report on number of graduates was obtained from Institutional Research
     Summary of Findings:
     - 3 students completed dissertation defenses and graduated.

   - Assessment Measure 2
     - During the dissertation defense students will be assessed using rubrics by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees. Scores on the oral rubric in the 'Overall breadth of knowledge' and 'Quality of response to questions' sections, and scores on the written rubric in the 'Overall quality of science', 'Contribution to discipline', and 'Experimental design implementation and interpretation' sections will be combined for an overall score for this learning outcome.
     - Direct
     - Major professor is responsible for distributing rubric during defense and collecting the data
     Acceptable and Ideal Targets

- An acceptable target is that a majority of candidates at least 'Meets Expectations Well' on the rubric. Ideally all candidates will 'Meet Base Expectations'.

Summary of Findings:
- The rubrics were developed this year; however, none of the committees completed them.

Recommendation:
- The faculty needs to use the rubrics at the conclusion of the student's defense

5. **Student Learning Outcome #2**
Graduate students will demonstrate problem solving skills.

- Assessment Measure 3
  - During the dissertation defense students will be assessed using rubrics by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees. Scores on the oral rubric in the 'Quality of response to questions' sections, and scores on the written rubric in the 'Experimental design implementation and interpretation' sections will be combined for an overall score for this learning outcome.
  - Direct
  - Major professor is responsible for distributing rubrics during defense and collecting the data

  Acceptable and Ideal Targets
  - An acceptable target is that a majority of candidates at least 'Meets Expectations Well' on the rubrics. Ideally all candidates will 'Meet Base Expectations'.

  Summary of Findings:
  - The rubrics were developed this year; however, none of the committees completed them.

  Recommendation:
  - The faculty needs to use the rubrics at the conclusion of the student's defense

6. **Student Learning Outcome #3**
Graduate students will be able to communicate effectively in a) oral and b) written form.

- Assessment Measure 4
  - During the dissertation defense, students will be assessed using rubrics for a) oral and b) written communication skills by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees.
  - Direct
  - Major professor is responsible for distributing rubrics during defense and collecting the data

  Acceptable and Ideal Targets
  - An acceptable target is that a majority of candidates at least 'Meets Expectations Well' on the rubrics. Ideally all candidates will 'Meet Base Expectations'.

  Summary of Findings:
  - The rubrics were developed this year; however, none of the committees completed them.

  Recommendation:
  - The faculty needs to use the rubrics at the conclusion of the student's defense

7. **Overall Recommendations**
    Rubrics for assessing the Student Learning Outcomes have been developed and now emphasis must be placed on completing them at the conclusion of defenses.

8. **Action Plan**
    - The Department's Administrative Assistant has digital copies of the rubrics and will hand them to major professors at the start of each defense.

9. **Supporting Attachment**
    - Rubrics developed are attached