

Breaking Through

Creating the Future for AgEcon

2017-2022



**A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS**

Preamble

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics has provided education to the students of the University of Wyoming and the people of Wyoming for nearly 100 years. Education that facilitates students, citizens, households, and governments to critically evaluate the choices they face is what economics is all about – making informed choices in the face of limited resources. Providing this education effectively requires integrating the three principles of the land-grant mission: teaching, research, and outreach. To provide students meaningful learning experiences we must present them with research that pushes the limits of current knowledge; to provide impactful outreach and engagement we must refer to relevant and timely applied research; and to undertake meaningful applied research we must have an intimate understanding of the current issues facing our stakeholders. We consequently strive to integrate research, classroom teaching, outreach, and engagement at the highest level.

Breaking Through – Creating the Future for AgEcon, is our plan to even more effectively serve our students, the people of Wyoming and the region, and the scientific community over the next five years. With the support of the University and COANR, and our alumni, industry partners and friends, we will continue to uphold the land-grant tradition for decades to come.

“THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT YOUR FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT.” –ABRAHAM LINCOLN





Mission

Empower Students and Citizens to Explore, Discover, Learn, Grow and Serve

Vision

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics is the partner of choice in the region for education, outreach and engagement related to the economics of agriculture, natural resources, consumer choice, community decision-making, and public policy.

Values

Our values embody the principles that drive our culture and priorities, and guide our day-to-day decision-making.

Economic Reasoning

The methods and lessons of economic reasoning provide a valuable foundation for critically evaluating the decisions we face, from day-to-day choices to the most complex social, natural, and political issues of our time.

Lifelong Learning

Continuous learning is a modern-day economic imperative – stagnant knowledge and worldviews are the antithesis of critical thinking. We are committed to lifelong learning and to empowering all learners with the tools and inspiration necessary for lifelong learning.

Teamwork and Collaboration

The issues facing Wyoming, the region, and the world require effective collaboration, both internal and external to the University, irrespective of disciplinary, socio-political, cultural, or other differences.

Character

We value the character strengths emblematic of the people Wyoming – hard-working, honest, transparent, ethical, fair-minded – and strive to embody them in all that we do.

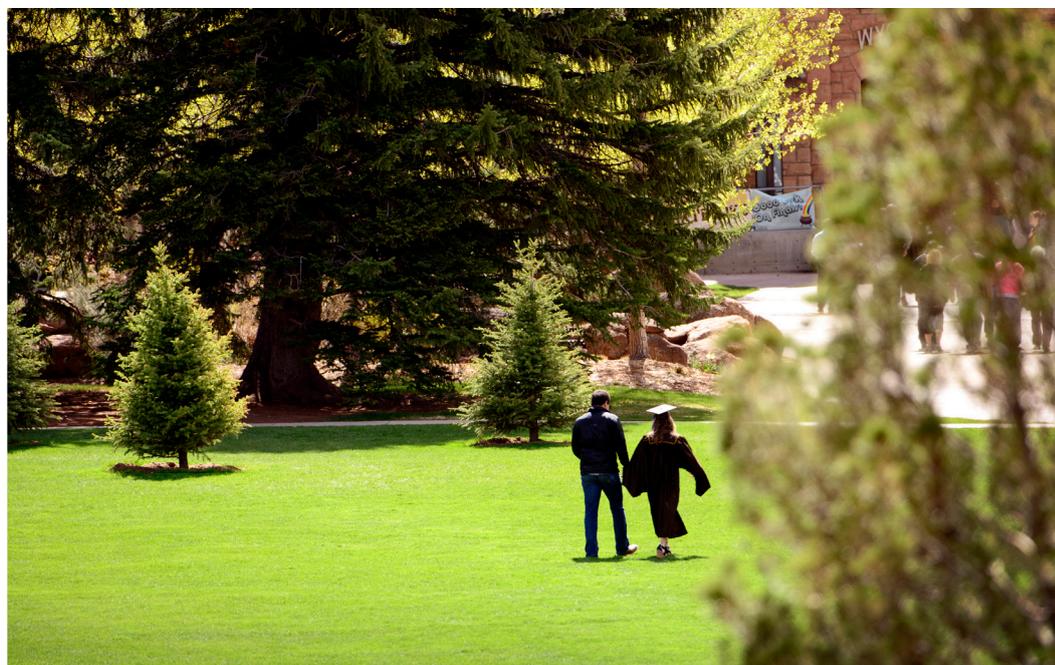
Diversity

Diversity in all its dimensions – including race, gender, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, creed, ancestry, political belief, socioeconomic status, and thought – strengthens and enlivens the community within which we teach, learn, and live.

Engagement

Engagement with, and outreach to, the citizens of Wyoming and beyond motivates our daily work. We are committed to effectively communicating with our stakeholders, and continually adapting to meet the contemporary needs of the people for whom we exist.





Goals

GOAL ONE

ENHANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Ensure all learners—credit and non-credit—have ample exposure to the skills necessary for success in the contemporary economy and to build a foundation for lifelong learning

GOAL TWO

PROVIDE SOLUTIONS

Provide input, alternatives, and strategies for resolving the challenges facing agricultural enterprises, communities, households, consumers, and policy-makers across Wyoming and the region

GOAL THREE

CULTIVATE, RECOGNIZE, AND RENEW OUR PEOPLE

Ensure our long-term effectiveness to deliver on the land-grant mission by sustaining a positive environment within which all can study, work, and live

GOAL ONE

ENHANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

ENSURE ALL LEARNERS—CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT—HAVE AMPLE EXPOSURE TO NECESSARY SKILLS FOR SUCCESS IN THE CONTEMPORARY ECONOMY AND TO BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

OBJECTIVE 1.1. EXPLORE, IDENTIFY, AND IMPLEMENT TEACHING AND LEARNING INNOVATIONS FOR CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT LEARNERS, WITH A FOCUS TOWARDS INTEGRATING CLASSROOM TEACHING, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT, AND APPLIED RESEARCH

- Identify and foster strategic collaborations with regional partners, including county-based Extension educators, Wyoming Community Colleges and UW Casper faculty, to leverage resources, further engage with the state, strengthen degree programs, expand access, and improve outcomes for all learners
- Create opportunities to leverage Extension, alumni, and industry partnerships to enhance student learning and career preparation; and to use students to further engagement and outreach initiatives
- Explore options to expand access to education resources (including online delivery) for credit and non-credit learners, and to ensure access for underserved populations
- Explore new and improve existing degree options, course offerings, and non-credit programming based on our comparative advantages relative to regional demands, comparator departments, and the COANR strengths in applied agricultural sciences

OBJECTIVE 1.2. RECRUIT, RETAIN AND ENSURE TIMELY DEGREE COMPLETION FOR CREDIT-BASED STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE REGION

- Finalize 2+2 plans and articulation agreements with all Wyoming Community Colleges
- Develop “benchmark” degree plans identifying key benchmarks students should attain each year to ensure timely degree completion
- Re-evaluate and update degree program requirements, course numbering, course sequencing, prerequisite requirements, and optimal class sizes
- Explore opportunities for concurrent enrollment options with Wyoming Community Colleges

OBJECTIVE 1.3. EXPAND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand opportunities for student participation in study abroad, internship, undergraduate research, and other experiential learning experiences
- Establish an AGECE student society to foster student-student, student-faculty, and student-industry interactions, and to provide expanded opportunities for engagement and learning both inside and outside the classroom



Performance Indicators	Baseline	2022 Target
Undergraduate enrollment	147/yr (5-yr average)	175/yr
Transfer enrollment	19/yr (5-yr average)	25/yr
Benchmark advising plans	Underway	Completion
Participation in AGECE study abroad programs	5-7 per year	10-14 per year
Total participation in experiential learning	12-15 students/yr	20-25/yr

GOAL TWO

PROVIDE SOLUTIONS

PROVIDE INPUT, ALTERNATIVES, AND STRATEGIES FOR RESOLVING THE CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, COMMUNITIES, HOUSEHOLDS, CONSUMERS, AND POLICY-MAKERS ACROSS WYOMING AND THE REGION

OBJECTIVE 2.1. BROADEN OUR RECORD OF APPLIED RESEARCH AND OUTREACH TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF DECISION-MAKERS—STUDENTS, INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, COMMUNITIES, AND REGIONAL POLICY-MAKERS—TO MAKE WELL-INFORMED DECISIONS

- Enhance ongoing applied research and outreach to evaluate trade-offs faced by decision-makers, and to analyze the impacts their decisions have on other individuals, the community, and the environment
- Create synergies and improve the integration of diverse disciplines and viewpoints to more effectively address contemporary issues
- Further integrate research, extension, and teaching, both within the department and across our interactions with other researchers, educators, policy-makers, agricultural producers, and Wyoming citizens
- Explore opportunities to gain insights from other areas around the world that face challenges similar to those experienced by our stakeholders

OBJECTIVE 2.2. ENHANCE AND EXPAND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

- Enhance how we connect and collaborate with students, alumni, state residents, businesses, communities, and regional policymakers
- Expand the reach of our engagement efforts by exploring innovative and efficient methods to deliver research results and outreach education
- Partner with the Foundation, Extension, and the Office of Engagement to regularly assess regional needs for applied research and outreach
- Review departmental research and outreach expertise for areas of potential comparative advantage relative to identified regional needs



Performance Indicators	Baseline	2022 Target
Outreach contacts	200/FTE/yr	250/FTE/yr
Engagement programs delivered	TBD from new tracking protocols	
Participation at statewide Extension/industry events	TBD from new database of critical events	At least one person per critical event
Invited external speakers	<1 per semester	2-3 per semester
Create needs assessment protocols	Beginning	Completion

GOAL THREE

CULTIVATE, RECOGNIZE, AND RENEW
OUR PEOPLE

ENSURE OUR LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS TO DELIVER ON THE LAND-GRANT MISSION BY SUSTAINING A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH ALL CAN STUDY, WORK, AND LIVE

OBJECTIVE 3.1. FOSTER AND SUSTAIN A VIBRANT AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY THAT PROMOTES STUDENT, FACULTY, AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND JOB SATISFACTION

- Ensure faculty and staff have access to professional development opportunities
- Recognize and celebrate the excellence of our students, faculty, and staff
- Support regular opportunities to foster a sense of community among students, faculty, and staff

OBJECTIVE 3.2. IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF STUDY, WORK, AND LIVE

- Conduct an internal review of resources and facilities to identify existing gaps and to guide fundraising and budget prioritization
- Direct financial resources to address facilities improvement and deferred maintenance needs



Performance Indicators	Baseline	2022 Target
Awards	1-2 nominations/yr	3-5 nominations/yr
Sponsored social activities	1-2 per semester	3-5 per semester
Professional development opportunities	<1/person/yr	≥1/person/yr
AGEC student society	Beginning	Created with 12-15 active students

“HOWEVER BEAUTIFUL THE STRATEGY, YOU SHOULD OCCASIONALLY PAUSE TO LOOK AT THE RESULTS.”

—WINSTON CHURCHILL



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics