

**ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE SELF STUDY**

**AGRICULTURE (001)**

**EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE**

Prepared for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Agriculture degree program offered by Eastern Oklahoma State College is a transfer program designed to be completed in two years. The program provides the general education, introductory major field requirements, and supporting major electives for successful transfer to a baccalaureate degree program in the option areas of Agriculture Communications, Agriculture Economics, Agriculture Education, Agronomy, Animal Science, Food Science, and Pre-veterinary Medicine. The program continues to undergo revisions to the various options to reflect changes initiated by the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University and as a result of internal evaluations. The following information outlines the current status and the degree of effectiveness of Eastern's Agriculture program.

## **STATE REGENTS POLICY**

### **Centrality of the Program to the Institution's Mission**

As published, the mission of Eastern Oklahoma State College is "to generate student learning through its associate degrees and other academic programs which effectively prepare graduates to complete baccalaureate degrees, obtain productive employment and lead enriched lives of learning. It is simultaneously the mission of the College to engage in educational programming and related activities that promote regional economic and community development."

Eastern's General Agriculture program encompasses the mission of the institution by providing a complete, comprehensive Associate of Science degree program in agriculture to a diverse student population consisting of individuals who often classify as "at-risk" due to economic conditions, educational preparations, race, and/or first generation. Students successfully completing the curriculum enter a university setting at the junior level and are positioned to be competitive with their peers as they begin to specialize in their specific option area curriculum.

### **Vitality of the Program**

#### ***Program Objectives and Goals***

The primary goal of the General Agriculture program is to provide a complete, comprehensive program which includes general education requirements and introductory agriculture courses which allows the student a seamless matriculation into a baccalaureate program. Upon matriculation the student should be successful in their ability to perform at or above the level of their peers.

Specific objectives and goals for each of the courses in the General Agriculture curriculum are defined and clearly stated within the standardized syllabi associated with that course. To insure awareness each student receives a copy of the individual course syllabi. The course syllabi are also posted on BlackBoard and are maintained in a repository in the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

## *Quality Indicators*

Multiple tools are used to evaluate the individual options offered under the General Agriculture program. These tools consist of student evaluation of individual courses, review of student success, analyzing faculty performance, along with an annual strategic planning meeting of Agriculture faculty and staff members.

Students evaluate their instructors and the strengths/weaknesses of their courses as a measure of program effectiveness. A standardized faculty evaluation form available through BlackBoard is used by students to evaluate teacher performance. Students evaluate the instructor with 23 items, with an additional optional four items designed by the division. The evaluation also allows students the opportunity to provide written comments. Results of the evaluation are reviewed by the Division Dean and the individual faculty member.

Student success is evaluated through Eastern's assessment program. Eastern's program has shifted over the past several years from a focus on teaching to a focus on student learning. A model has been devised that links outcomes with curriculum, co-curricular activities, assessment methods, and the budget. Student assessment is conducted at three levels: entry level, mid-level, and programs. Entry-level assessment is used to determine appropriate enrollment of new students to ensure student success. ACT scores are evaluated and if any of the sub-scores in reading, English, or mathematics fall below 19, students must enroll in and complete developmental courses in that subject area as required by OSRHE policy. Students placed in developmental course work by ACT scores have the option of taking the ACCUPLACER Test to provide additional entry-level assessment.

Mid-level assessment in the Agriculture program consists of an entrance and exit examination administered at the beginning of the program and upon program completion. Student progress is partially determined from these scores in consideration with ACT scores and GPA. The general education learning outcomes of the program are administered through Eastern's Assessment Program. Graduating students are also given the College Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam as part of their assessment.

The Agriculture Division Dean also evaluates faculty member performance to identify strengths and weaknesses and to implement any plans for improvement, if required. The annual evaluation is maintained in the Office of the Dean of Agriculture with a copy provided to the faculty member and a copy forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Each summer Agriculture Division faculty and staff gather off campus for a strategic planning session. The meeting is held at a regional agriculture related entity to provide an professional development opportunity in addition to the planning meeting. At the meeting performance of individual programs and associated activities of the previous academic year are reviewed, goals for the upcoming year are established, and upcoming activities are coordinated. In addition to these pertinent items, staff members are provided with an opportunity to interact with their colleagues in a less formal format.

### ***Minimum Productivity Indicators***

#### **Enrollment/Headcount:**

Enrollment (Headcount) numbers submitted to the OSRHE by Eastern Oklahoma State College as those majoring in of the General Agriculture options for the previous five years indicates there were 271 individuals. The specific number for each year are presented in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Fall 2012</b>	<b>Fall 2013</b>	<b>Fall 2014</b>	<b>Fall 2015</b>	<b>Fall 2016</b>	<b>Avg</b>
<b>Headcount</b>	62	73	41	40	55	54.2

There was a change in the Agriculture Division leadership during the summer of 2012. Also, there was instability with one of the General Agriculture positions during the period from Fall 2013 until Fall 2015. In the Fall 2015 a new instructor was hired bringing some stability and credibility back to that position. It was felt that these issues might have a negative impact on enrollment and that proved to be the case. With increased recruiting efforts, and stability and growing credibility with the current faculty and Division leadership, enrollment for the General Agriculture program and other programs are trending upward. Total Division enrollment from Fall 2014 to Fall 2016 increased 48%.

#### **Degrees Conferred:**

70 students have graduated from the program over the past five years. A breakdown of those graduates by year is presented in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>Avg</b>
<b>Graduates</b>	14	14	16	14	12	14

The number of graduates from the program has increased with the corresponding increase enrollment.

#### **Enrollment in Major Courses:**

When considering the various option offered under General Agriculture there are four courses required of all students: ANSI 1124 - Introduction to Animal Science, AGRON 1213 - Crop Production, AGRON 2124 - Fundamentals of Soil Science, and AG EC 1113 - Introduction to Agriculture Economics. Multiple sections of each course are offered through the year and comprise fourteen credit hours within the degree plan. Enrollment in these courses for the past five years is presented below:

Course	Year					Avg
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	
ANSI 11124	40	20	16	21	28	25.0
AGRON 1213	27	21	20	15	20	20.6
AGRON 2124	28	28	14	26	28	24.8
AG EC 1113	41	31	31	22	51	35.2

**Effective Use of Resources:**

***Staffing***

The program is adequately staffed and administered to meet program objectives, develop occupational competencies of the student, and contribute to the development of the student's citizenship and social conscience. As previously presented, the General Agriculture faculty consists of four faculty members with the responsibilities of providing classroom and laboratory instruction, serving as academic advisors to General Agriculture majors, sponsoring student organizations and/or judging teams, and the administration of the various agriculture options.

The General Agriculture Department is housed with Eastern's Division of Agriculture. As part of the Agriculture Division the program incorporates the services and benefits of divisional staff and resources. Agriculture staff members who provide services include the Division Dean, an Administrative Assistant, and a Meat Processing Plant Manager. In addition, the Division utilizes a 3,700 acre college farm administered by a Farm Manager and support staff.

Institutional resources available to the student include the library and media center, Student Support Services, tutoring, counseling, multiple computer laboratories, physical fitness facility, and on-campus housing. Opportunities available for the student to grow academically, socially, and culturally include Eastern's Student Government Association, college band and choir, theater program, college newspaper, various clubs, and athletic teams for both men and women. Additional opportunities provided by the Agriculture Division include the Aggie Club, Ag Ambassador Leadership program, and agricultural judging teams.

***Faculty***

Eastern's policy in regards to faculty credentials is for instructors to hold a Master's degree in the area of instruction. If conditions dictate, individuals with a Bachelor's degree may be temporarily employed, provided there is a commitment to complete a Master's degree within three years of initial employment. Two of the current faculty hold M.S. degrees in their field. The remaining two hold B.S. degrees and are in the process of completing their M.S. degrees in their field.

The faculty members responsible for instruction in the General Agriculture program consist of Mr. Edwin Woods, Ms. Penny Raspotnik-Jones, Ms. Jade Jenkins, and Ms. Crystal Shipman. Mr. Woods serves as the Agriculture Division Dean and teaches agriculture orientation, agriculture leadership, and forestry/natural resources. Ms. Raspotnik Jones serves as the instructor for agriculture economics and horticulture. Ms. Jenkins serves as the instructor for animal science and Ms. Shipman serves as the instructor for agronomy, agriculture communications, and agriculture computers.

A roster of those faculty members is presented in the table below:

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Credential</b>	<b>Granting Institution</b>
Edwin D. Woods	M.S. Degree	Oklahoma State University
Jade Jenkins	B.S. Degree	Oklahoma State University
Penny Jones	M.S. Degree	Oklahoma State University
Crystal Shipman	B.S. Degree	Oklahoma State University

To maintain and improve the quality of instruction Eastern faculty members are required to participate in professional development activities. This includes, but is not limited to, attending faculty conferences, attending professional conferences related to the faculty members respective field, and membership in professional societies.

To supplement the student’s educational opportunities several judging teams are available for participation. Ms. Jenkins coaches Eastern’s Livestock Judging team, Ms. Shipman coaches the Crops and Soils Judging teams, and Ms. Raspotnik-Jones coaches the Horticulture and Agribusiness Judging teams.

***Library Collections, Media, and Materials***

Textbooks, literature, videos, DVD’s, software applications, and curriculum developed specifically by the faculty member are utilized in the program as tools for instruction.

In the Library Media Center general agriculture students have full access to a variety of materials. The library maintains a section of over 2,000 books associated with agriculture including the areas of plant production and management, animal science, soil management, and agriculture economics. Twenty-one journals/magazines are subscribed to which are dedicated to agricultural topics. Student also can utilize several databases to access journal articles.

Additional Divisional resources include laptop computers, wireless internet, LCD projectors, Promethean boards, specialized tools/equipment, and various specimen collections.

Resource professionals from various organizations are utilized to supplement instruction in lecture and laboratories. They are invited to speak to classes regarding their respective expertise. Likewise, field trips are utilized to provide the student opportunities to see how the information

provided in the curriculum is put into practice in a real world scenario, and to begin developing a network with prospective employers.

### ***Instructional Space and Facilities***

Traditional classrooms and faculty offices are housed in Baker Hall and consists of three “dedicated” classrooms (capacity 20 students), a “dedicated” computer lab (capacity 20 students), four faculty offices (including the office area of an administrative assistant), conference room, and three storage rooms.

To supplement the student’s learning the General Agriculture program utilizes the following resources:

1. A 3,700 acre College Farm consisting of 2,000 acres of pasture, a Beef Barn, a small animal unit, and a livestock exhibition facility.
2. A 150 head cow/calf operation.
3. Two state-of-the-art greenhouses, one which is dedicated to the science of aquaponics.
4. A Meat Processing plant.

### ***Use of Technology in Instructional Design/Delivery***

Multiple methods of instruction are utilized to present information to students. The primary method of delivery consists of formal lecture supplemented by PowerPoint presentations. As previously discussed each of the “dedicated” classrooms used in the General Agriculture program are equipped with Promethean boards, computer systems, wireless internet, and LCD projectors to aid in instruction.

The institution has implemented BlackBoard campus-wide as a delivery format. All of the courses in the General Agriculture program utilize BlackBoard in varying degrees. At minimum course syllabi, assignments, PowerPoint slides, and other course information is communicated to students via this format. Pertinent videos/DVD’s are also utilized to supplement lecture. Computer problems have been incorporated into several courses to reinforce concepts and develop computer skills.

Several on-line course in the agriculture curriculum have been developed and are being utilized. These courses are reviewed by an Instructional Designer employed by the institution to ensure the quality of the design and delivery. Faculty also have access to interactive television to deliver lectures to students at Eastern’s branch campuses.

### **Self-Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, and Recommendations for Improvement**

In reviewing the information generated through this Self Study, the following strengths and weakness of the General Agriculture program have been identified:

### ***Strengths:***

1. Several community colleges within Oklahoma offer a General, or Basic, Associate of Science in Agriculture Degree. Where other institutions concentrate in the area of Animal Science, Eastern's program is unique in that it has the faculty and resources to place emphasis in all subject areas associated with agriculture.
2. The quality of the program is recognized by transfer institutions and regionally among industry.
3. Student receive a highly personalized educational experience with "hands-on" experiences built into the curriculum.
4. The program utilizes multiple instructors who have expertise in their respective fields and "out of the classroom" resources to provide a quality educational experience.
5. The program has access and utilizes current technological resources to enhance delivery and student learning.
6. Annual strategic planning within the Agriculture Division has proven to be a valuable asset in ensuring the quality of the program.
7. Scholarship resources are sufficient to recruit students to the agriculture programs offered by Eastern.
8. The program provides a valued service to the agriculture community and high school agriculture education programs by conducting workshops, livestock shows, speech contests, and judging events for their students.
9. The staff members within the Agriculture Division work well as a cohesive unit and are all involved in planning and decision-making.
10. The staff members within the Agriculture Division function well within the college community and provide diverse services to Eastern.
11. The strength of enrollment in the General Agriculture program supports enrollment in General Education courses and auxiliary resources on campus.
12. Students are offered a wide array of opportunities through the Aggie Club, Ag Ambassadors, and judging teams to enhance their personal growth and educational experience.

### ***Weaknesses:***

1. The declining budget over the past several years has reduced available resources which will have a negative impact on the quality of the program.
2. Coordination of laboratories with the College Farm is an issue.
3. Demands on the time of Division faculty sometime leaves little room to pursue professional improvement opportunities.

### ***Recommendations for Improvement:***

1. Continue to use available resources wisely to minimize the impact of declining budgets. Pursue outside resource opportunities through grants, partnerships, etc.

2. Pursue increased cooperation with College Farm personnel regarding management of that resource to ensure quality and quantity of educational opportunities available in the General Agriculture program.
3. Continue to learn and utilize new technologies and promote their incorporation within the General Agriculture program.
4. Expand utilization of business and industry resources to enhance the curriculum.
5. Continue to improve the Eastern experience for agriculture students by searching for new and innovative opportunities and activities.