Purdue Agriculture: Integrating Research, Extension and Education

Summary
Purdue Agriculture is developing ways to foster more collaborative and integrated programs. The offices of Agricultural Research Programs (ARP), Cooperative Extension Service (CES), and Academic Programs (AP) are working together to develop an effective structure and to provide better services to help us become more successful for integrating research, outreach, and education, and to increase our competitiveness for multi-disciplinary funding opportunities.

Staffing
In the ARP office, the following personnel changes have been undertaken. We are in the process of recruiting for the vacant Assistant Director of Sponsored Program Development position. This individual will be responsible for identifying and securing extramural funding, facilitating integration of research, outreach, and education, and will also help to organize and develop multi-disciplinary projects. Dr. Richard Linton has also taken on a 0.25 FTE administrative appointment in the ARP office as Associate Director for Competitive and Integrative Programs. Dr. Marshall Martin will retain a 0.75 FTE appointment in ARP, and serve as Associate Director for Mission Oriented Programs and Stakeholder Relations. Marshall will also coordinate the new internal mini-grants program (described below) to foster integrated research and outreach programs to benefit Indiana Agriculture. In the CES office, Janet Bechman, Extension Plan of Work and Accountability Coordinator, and Dr. Rick Foster, Assistant ANR Program Leader, will continue to be involved in research, extension, and education integrated efforts. Janet leads the coordination and the implementation of the Plan of Work and provides oversight for reporting. As Assistant Extension Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Rick will represent Extension’s interests in development of integrated programs and will work with the business office to insure that Federal requirements for integrated and multi-state activities are met.

New Purdue Mission Oriented Grants Program
The purpose of this new funding opportunity is to encourage integrated research, extension, and education programs within and between departments in the College of Agriculture. The RFP will seek projects that conduct applied research and associated extension activities on plant and animal systems that may encompass any aspect of the value chain. Successful competitive projects must focus on high priority food, agriculture, and natural resource issues that impact Indiana as identified in the seven key initiatives contained in the Indiana State Department of Agriculture’s Strategic Plan. The rationale and significance of the problem must be clearly articulated including how Indiana stakeholders might benefit from the successful completion of the proposed mission-oriented effort. For 2007, a total of $250,000 is expected to be available to support competitive grants not to exceed $25,000 each. An RFP was released in early October and proposals are due on or before December 4, 2006. For more information about the new mission oriented grant program contact Marshall Martin at (765) 494-8365, marshallmartin@purdue.edu or visit: http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/arp/.

Rapid-Response Teams
With the changing agricultural environment in the state, there is a significant need to provide rapid, unbiased, science-based information to producers, citizens, county educators, state bureaucracies, policy-making individuals, industry, etc. The College of Agriculture is facilitating identification of issues pertaining to Indiana agriculture, and creation of integrated, rapid team responses to provide answers needed by our stakeholders – in a fast and effective manner. Recent examples of such responses include siting of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), corn distillers dried grain with solubles (DDGS), biomass, etc.
The expectation of such efforts is that problems are identified and faculty expertise is brought to bear to address the same, for which the ARP and CES will provide resources. For 2007, a total of $50,000 is expected to be available to support the efforts of rapid response teams.

**How are the Mission Oriented Grants and Rapid Response Teams Concepts Different?**

These two new initiatives are similar in that they support the overall vision of establishing better integrated programs to meet state needs. However, they are separate initiatives, each having different intentions and methods for participation. The intent of the mission oriented grants program is to fund integrated projects that help meet state of Indiana agricultural priorities. That’s why the RFP is connected with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture’s strategic plan. These are intended to be longer term projects that take a year or more to complete. There is a process in place, through the competitive RFP, for establishing which projects should receive priority for funding. The goal of the rapid response teams is quite different. Here, the intent is to rapidly respond to emerging issues where the initiation of the project starts nearly immediately. Examples of rapid response projects may be development of a workshop for key Agriculture stakeholders (i.e., biofuels), short-term analysis of plant or animal product samples, development of written information to help educate our stakeholders, update of websites on current hot topics, etc. There is no formal RFP for rapid response teams since time does not allow. Instead, faculty and staff are encouraged to interact with Sonny Ramaswamy and Dave Petritz to establish and respond to these more pressing needs.

**New 5-year USDA Integrated Purdue Plan of Work**

The new USDA 5-year Plan of Work is an integrated research, extension, and education plan developed in parallel to address state and national agricultural needs. The new Plan of Work is a requirement for receiving federal formula funding that supports many of our projects and programs. The Plan of Work, which includes programs from the College of Agriculture, College of Consumer and Family Sciences, and School of Veterinary medicine, provides a foundation for setting priorities for the College of Agriculture. By integrating research, extension and education, it helps us communicate our efforts better.

A committee from the College of Agriculture, representing the ARP and CES offices, worked together this past spring to develop the new integrated Plan of Work. The committee obtained information from nearly every faculty member in the College of Agriculture. Relevant information was also obtained from the College of Consumer and Family Sciences and the School of Veterinary Medicine. Most information came from databases that included USDA yearly reporting information (i.e. CRIS projects, Grant progress), from impact statements, and from annual reports from different Centers in the College. The committee also worked closely with Deans and Directors from the College of Agriculture, College of Consumer and Family Sciences, and School of Veterinary Sciences. Information gathered from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture strategic plan and from stakeholder interviews and community sessions conducted throughout Indiana in 2003 and 2005 were used to establish priorities for the Plan of Work.

The Plan of Work contains an overall summary followed by a description of the ten programs identified in the plan. Within each of the ten planned programs, there are eleven sections that USDA requires in the document: 1) knowledge areas codes, 2) a brief summary, 3) situation and priorities, 4) assumptions, 5) ultimate goals of the program, 6) outputs, 7) output indicators, 8) outcome indicators, 9) external factors, 10) evaluation studies planned, and 11) data collection methods. Of most interest to you may be the goals and summary for each planned program. The knowledge codes are helpful in understanding the amount (%) of effort that we dedicate to each area within a planned program. You may also be interested in the outputs and indicators since this is what we will be initially reporting against for each program. More information about the Plan of Work can be obtained at: [http://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/ces/pow/default.aspx](http://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/ces/pow/default.aspx) or by contacting Janet Bechman directly at (765) 494-8309 or at jcb@purdue.edu.