

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture

Agricultural Faculty Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2025

Attendance – 38

Presiding – Dean Bernie Engel

Call to Order

Dean Bernie Engel called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Finding Innovative Approaches to Research Funding – Dr. Ron Turco

Ron Turco discussed the current state of funding in agriculture, highlighting a \$2 billion cut in public spending on ag R&D since 1970. He emphasized the importance of diversifying funding sources, including private sector R&D and international partnerships. Turco noted that the college received \$64 million from DOD last year and is working on a new EU arrangement. He stressed the need for rapid negotiation processes and the potential impact of changes in NIH review processes. Turco also mentioned the importance of industrial partnerships, foundation support, and the potential for new funding opportunities through consortium efforts and strategic partnerships.

Consent Agenda – Action Items

Items on the consent agenda were considered. Dean Engel asked if anyone wished to remove any item from the consent agenda for additional discussion. No items were removed. A motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Memorial Resolutions

The following memorial resolution was presented:

Larry Bohl by Dr. James Mintert

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of this emeriti member of the faculty. A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.

Report Items

Standing Committee Reports:

1. Agenda and Policy Committee – Dr. Amanda Deering

This year Agenda and Policy had the following speakers:

Jarrold Doucette, Director of College of Agriculture Data Services – Provided an overview of AgIT and AI applications in Agriculture

Karen Plaut, Executive Vice President for Research – Discussed research awards and One Health from a research standpoint

Christine Wilson, Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Office of Academic Programs – Explained undergraduate applications, graduation rates, and enrollment reductions; and discussed the market study for the agricultural space at Purdue Indianapolis in the spring of 2025.

Joshua Detre, Strategic Research Development Administrator for Ag Online Programs – Discussed new book initiative

2. Area Promotions – Dean Bernie Engel

Highlighted Area Promotions during Dean's Comments.

3. Curriculum and Student Relations Committee – Kathryn Orvis for Brenna Ellison

CSRC began review of College of Agriculture Core Curriculum. Will be making recommendations/updates to College of Agriculture Faculty.

4. Grade Appeals – Associate Dean Christine Wilson

There were zero grade appeals.

5. University Curriculum Council (UCC) – Dr. Jeneen Fields

The Undergraduate Curriculum Council is considering design support, planning, and forecast options for both in-person and virtual laboratory classes. Dr. Fields can provide guidance on how these should be structured and aligned with core credit requirements, especially Embedded Learning Outcomes.

6. University Senate Report – Dr. Torbert Rocheford

Dr. Rocheford serves as the Agronomy representative on the Faculty Senate, and filling in to represent College of Agriculture senators after Mark Russell's retirement. The College of Agriculture remains well represented across Senate committees, and all minutes and materials are available on the Senate website. Recent meetings have focused on the enrollment cliff, shifting degree trends, teaching recognition, AI, admissions, federal funding changes, and institutional priorities shared by President Chiang and senior administrators. Presentations from the Provost and campus leaders have highlighted AI, undergraduate acceptance, support for funded PhD students, and responses to changing federal policies.

Dr. Rocheford's report is appended to these minutes.

Dean's Report – Dean Bernie Engel

The college continues to operate amid significant federal and institutional disruptions, with uncertainty expected to persist until at least May, when major federal reconciliation legislation may stabilize funding and policy. Despite these challenges, the college remains financially strong and is moving forward strategically.

Indianapolis Expansion

Purdue is exploring new academic offerings in Indianapolis for Fall 2027 to manage capped enrollments in West Lafayette. Early concepts focus on natural resources, environmental sciences, interdisciplinary programs, and potential urban agriculture tracks. Multiple program-location models (e.g., 3–1, 2–2) are under consideration. Input from faculty is encouraged as planning is still in early stages.

Books and Awards Emphasis

The university is strongly incentivizing book publishing due to historically low output, and the college already has about 30 contracts in progress. Books do not need to be bestsellers—repurposing existing work is acceptable. Faculty awards also remain a high priority, with several recent recognitions highlighted, including AAAS Fellows and extension awards.

Extension, Funding, and Facilities

County extension restructuring updates will be provided in a May 2 webinar. Federal uncertainty continues, but some programs (e.g., Mandela Fellows) remain funded. The pending Farm Bill includes a significant opportunity: \$2.5 billion for agricultural research facilities nationally, with matching requirements, which could support major Purdue facility upgrades if passed.

Institutional Strategy and Partnerships

The university is actively rethinking its position in response to rapid change, including shifts in federal funding and AI advancements. Leadership emphasizes stronger industry partnerships and preparing for long-term structural changes in higher education. Faculty hiring continues but is being adapted to new realities.

Programs and Events

Study abroad is strong, including an upcoming Research Academy trip to Europe. International awards will be presented May 7. Ag Week, Spring Fest, and additional engagement events are approaching, along with recognition of many faculty and staff achievements.

Dean Engel closed his presentation by stating, the university is navigating unprecedented change both federally and locally. Leaders are monitoring disruptions and aiming to communicate opportunities promptly. Faculty are encouraged to focus on what they can control and bring forward ideas.

Dean Engel's presentation is included in the document that is appended to these minutes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 PM.

Next Meeting

The 2025 Fall Semester Agricultural Faculty meeting is scheduled for 3:00 PM on Monday, December 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy P. Kerr
Secretary, Agricultural Faculty

Memorial Resolution: Lawrence P. "Larry" Bohl (1929-2024)

The Department of Agricultural Economics notes with profound sadness the passing of Professor Lawrence P. "Larry" Bohl on August 5, 2024, at the age of 95. Professor Bohl was a beloved figure in the Department of Agricultural Economics, where he served with distinction for over 35 years, touching the lives of thousands of students and colleagues through his dedication to teaching and mentorship.

Born January 25, 1929, in Pompeys Pillar, Montana, Larry began his career in agricultural education after receiving his B.S. degree from Montana State University in 1953. He spent eleven years teaching Vocational Agriculture in Montana high schools before joining Purdue University in 1964 to pursue advanced degrees. While completing his graduate studies, he served as a teaching assistant and instructor, demonstrating the exceptional teaching abilities that would define his career.

After earning his Ph.D. in 1971, Dr. Bohl joined the department as Assistant Professor and Head Undergraduate Counselor, roles in which he would make some of his most lasting impacts. He originated and taught the "Sophomore Seminar" course and worked tirelessly with students from recruitment through placement and was often called upon for career advice by past graduates. His special research interests included business management, with an emphasis on veterinary practice management, and he contributed to the development of some of the first computerized management simulation programs in the profession.

Throughout his career, Professor Bohl's commitment to undergraduate education earned him numerous accolades, including the Best of the Best Teacher Award from the Purdue Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (1992), the Hovde Award of Excellence in Service to the Rural People of Indiana (1996), and induction as a Founding Member of the Purdue Teaching Academy (1997). In addition, he was honored with an Outstanding Teaching Award by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. In 1999, he received the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association's Certificate of Distinction, recognizing his significant contributions to agriculture and education.

However, as Larry often stated, his greatest reward was the lifetime friendships he developed with his many students and colleagues. His remarkable ability to remember names and details about students years after their graduation spoke to his genuine interest in their success and well-being. Over his career, he taught and advised more than 10,000 students, many of whom remember him as a mentor who truly cared about their achievements. When visiting with alumni from the 1970's through the early 2000's, they often share a story about taking one of Dr. Bohl's classes or seeking advice from him, regardless of whether he was their designated advisor.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Larry was an active member of Immanuel United Church of Christ, where he served as Chairman of the Men's group for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy in 2012, after nearly 60 years of marriage. He is survived by his children Sandra Williams, David Bohl, and Lori Brown, six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Professor Bohl's legacy at Purdue University will endure through the countless lives he influenced and the standard of excellence in teaching and mentorship he established. The College of Agriculture has lost a dedicated educator, a caring mentor, and a true friend. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and all who knew him.

BE IT RESOLVED that the faculty of the College of Agriculture at Purdue University express their deep sorrow at the loss of Professor Lawrence P. Bohl and convey their heartfelt condolences to his family. His contributions to our college and to the field of agricultural economics will be remembered with profound gratitude and respect.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Foster, James Mintert, and Nicole Widmar, Department of Agricultural Economics Purdue University

University Senate Report to the March 27, 2025 College of Agriculture Faculty Meeting – Torbert Rocheford, torbert@purdue.edu

I am elected to represent the Department of Agronomy and serve on the Steering Committee which oversees setting the agenda and content for the Faculty Senate meetings. I am filling in today for Mark Russell who recently retired. Mark was the chairperson of the College of Agriculture Senate representatives and a non-voting member of the College Agenda and Policy Committee.

You all are well represented on University Senate committees as can be seen in the table below. You should be receiving Senate meeting minutes emailed directly and you can certainly reach out to your departmental senator. All of the information from the Senate meetings, decisions and topics being discussed in committees and the Senate at large is available to all at [Purdue University Senate webpage](#). There is a lot of diverse, useful information. Including these past three months:

-Senate Chair Susan South has made at the outset of each meeting a very well researched presentation of relevance to the faculty. These were: January - The impending “enrollment cliff” due to the decline in population of college-age students and the potential impacts on Purdue and other institutions. February she focused her remarks on the number of bachelor’s degrees in six broad categories conferred by degree-granting institutions from 2011 – 2022. There have been shifts in relative numbers, yet some recent reversals of trends that had been towards more STEM and less humanities in some institutions, like Berkeley. March – Rewarding Top University Teachers, Gender Equity for Salaries, Worker Well-Being and Productivity.

-Starting in February, 2025, the President’s remarks are posted shortly before the Senate meeting and President Chiang reads his prepared statements. This was done to get accurate and precise information immediately news sources. The President was misquoted in January, which created confusion, this new practice is designed to avoid this. He talked in January about: AI and its influence on academics; four-, five-, and six-year graduation rates, incoming student acceptance rates, interacting positively with local communities near Purdue campuses. In February: he discussed undergraduate acceptance, childcare on campus, a new high level administrative committee to address sudden changes in Federal funding policies, and freedom of expression by Purdue students, staff and faculty. March – Undergraduate Admissions trends includes more applicants, and more Indiana residents accepted, Monitoring Federal executive directives and court orders and administrative actions in order to help Purdue cope and respond, Enhancing Industry Funding for Research.

-Each meeting includes statements from the President and from one higher level administrator. January was Athletic Director Mike Bobinski spoke to provide updates on Name, Image, and Likeness and other issues. February was Senior Vice President Administrative Operations Michael Cline March was Chris Ruhl, Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer. These were all very interesting and informative presentations.

-Topics the Provost discussed this semester include: AI; incoming undergraduate acceptance rates; supporting PhD students funded by USAID grants; addressing the federal funding environment, inviting a faculty presentation on AI.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Faculty Senators 2024-2025

Name	Title/Unit	BLDG	Phone	Years Remaining
Stephen Cameron	Entomology	SMTH	61119	1
Brian Dilkes	Biochemistry	WSLR	62584	1
Abigail S. Engelberth	Agriculture and Biological Engineering	ABE	41009	2
Lori A. Hoagland	Horticulture and Landscape Architecture	HORT	41426	3
Bhagyashree Katare	Agriculture Economics	KRAN	47709	3
Kee-Hong Kim	Food Science	NELS	62330	3
Damon R. Lisch	Botany and Plant Pathology	WSLR	46606	1
Brian T. Richert	Animal Sciences	CRTN	44837	2
Torbert Rocheford	Agronomy	LILY	49243	2
Mark A. Russell	Agriculture Sciences Education and Communication	LILY	66287	Retired
Marisol S. Sepulveda	Forestry and Natural Resources	FORS	63428	2
Patrick A. Zollner	At-Large	FORS	62422	3

The University Senate met on January 27, February 17, March 24 and will meet on April 21, 2025.

The Senate approved the following documents:

- SD 24-05 Educational Policy Committee Faculty Committee (Subcommittee) Name Change
- SD 24-06 Modifications to Streamline and Clarify the Readmission Policy and Add the Readmission Policy to the Purdue University Academic Regulations

And Various Nominations for Committee, Positions, Advisors

More information and slides and the Q&A from the first two Spring 2024 meetings are on the [Senate website](#). The March 24 meeting materials are not posted yet and I do not expect them to be posted to next week. I

encourage you take a look some weekend or evening, especially the Chris Ruhl report as Purdue seems to be doing a little better than some other institutions.

The successful ability of the University Senate to represent the views and opinions of faculty and staff of the College of Agriculture relies on an effective information flow through your departmentally elected Senators. This is a two-way street as they represent your opinions and voices from your Departments to the Senate committees and the body as a whole. This information flows also from the discussions, proposals and actions of the Senate that originate in Standing Committees and then shared with each of you via the distributed Senate Newsletter, the Minutes posted on website, and as your Department Senator reports back to you.

Please be an active and engaged Purdue staff or faculty member and contribute to the discussions and resulting policies and procedures moving us forward. If you have questions or want to discuss Senate matters, please reach out to your Department Senator or myself, torbert@purdue.edu. I am on the steering committee, so if there is a major topic or presentation included (not just a question) let me know and this can be considered for inclusion.


COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Bernie Engel
Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture

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College of Agriculture



PURDUE AGRICULTURE

RANKS

#3 *IN THE
U.S.*

#5 *IN THE
WORLD*

QS World University Rankings, 2024

University Priorities for 2024-25

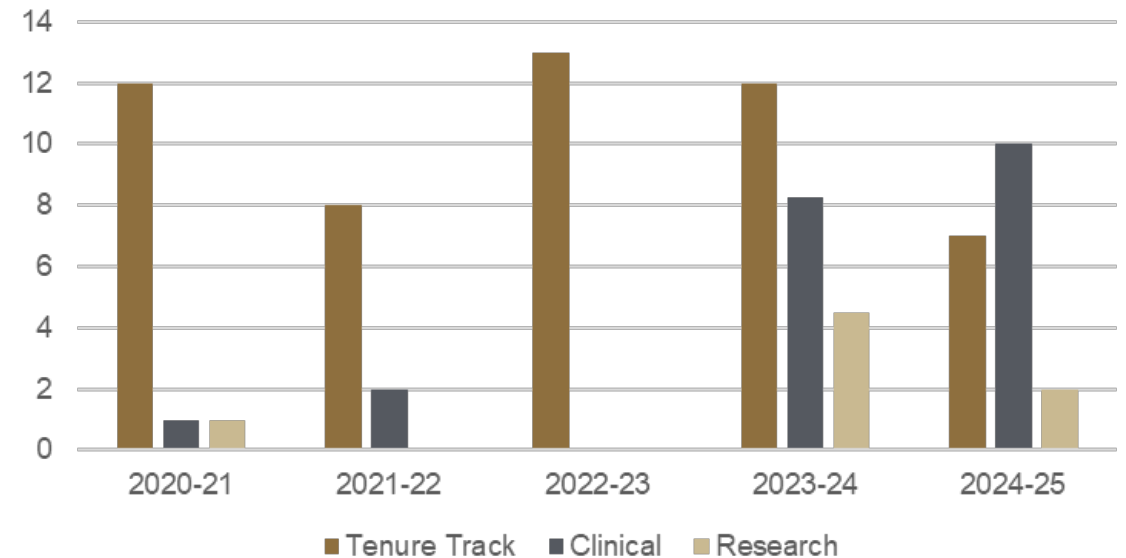
- **4 Priority Areas**
 - One Health
 - Purdue Computes
 - Daniels School of Business
 - Indianapolis
- **Large Research Proposals**
- **Research Metrics**
- **Books (More Information Coming) & Faculty Awards**
- **New Credentials and Degrees**



College Priorities for 2024-25

- Undergraduate Student Numbers
- Acting on Extension Task Force Recommendations
- Understanding Impacts of New Faculty Numbers
 - Teaching
 - Extension
 - Research

CoA Faculty Hiring over Last 5 Years



Moving Forward

- **Expect change to continue**
 - Shift in faculty hiring
 - Budget tightening
 - Limiting undergraduate admissions
- **Change happening across mission areas**
 - Extension – Budget/Modernization (already happening)
 - Teaching – Changes in plans of study/courses
 - Need flexibility
 - Research – Continued emphasis on scholarly productivity

College of Agriculture – New Faculty Positions

- **New Clinical Position**
 - Precision and Digital Agricultural Machine Systems
- **Launching College Research Faculty Positions**
 - Focused on specific needs of stakeholders in the state
 - Will need Extension cooperation/partnership – campus and field
 - Moving forward with 3 positions for 2024-25
 - Commercial Agriculture and Production Economics – Ag Economics
 - Fungal Biology and Mycotoxins – Botany & Plant Pathology
 - Carbohydrate Chemistry – Food Science

Outstanding Faculty & Staff in College of Agriculture

2024-25 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching
STEVE HALLETT (HLA)

Kohls Outstanding Early Career Teaching
KURT RISTROPH (ABE)

Outstanding Graduate Mentor and Teacher
ANJALI IYER-PASCUZZI (BTNY)

Outstanding Service to Students
AMANDA WILSON (ENTM)

Outstanding Teacher for Clinical Faculty & Lecturers
ROBERT STWALLEY (ABE)

Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor
GREG FRALEY (ANSC)

Taylor Excellence in Teaching Innovation
YIWEI HUANG (HLA)

Outstanding Undergraduate Advising
LEEANN WILLIAMS (AGEC)



Songlin Fei

Award in Forest Science
Society of American Foresters



Liz Karcher

Regional Teaching Award
USDA/APLU

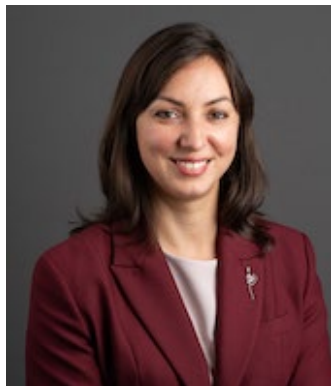


John Baugh
Agrivision Award

College of Agriculture – New Faculty Fall 2024



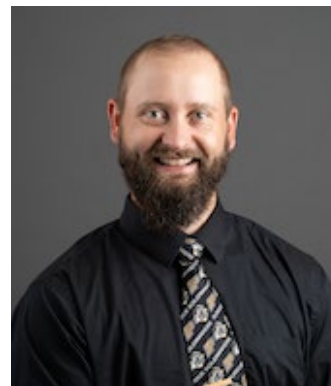
Andrew Johnston
Entomology



Anna Paltseva
Agronomy
Horticulture &
Landscape Architecture



Petrus Langenhoven
Horticulture &
Landscape Architecture



Tommy Butts
Botany & Plant
Pathology



**César Escalante-
Guardado**
Botany & Plant
Pathology



Trey Malone
Ag Economics
Boehlje Chair in
Managerial Economics



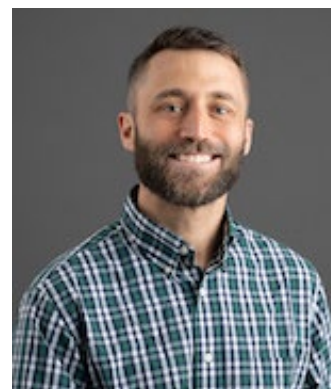
Christie Shee
Natural Resources &
Environmental Science



Hanyu Chen
Food Science



Peter Euclide
Forestry & Natural
Resources



Patrick Ruhl
Forestry & Natural
Resources

College of Agriculture - Students

- **Undergraduate Numbers for 2024-25**
 - **2,984 Undergraduates** in College
 - Anticipate lower admission numbers for 2025-26
- **Spring Start – January 2025**
 - Opportunity to bring more undergraduates into college
 - Industry needs well-trained graduates
 - 101 students received offer, 72 Indiana residents
 - **35 Enrolled (All IN residents)** – Goal was 20 for first cohort



College of Agriculture

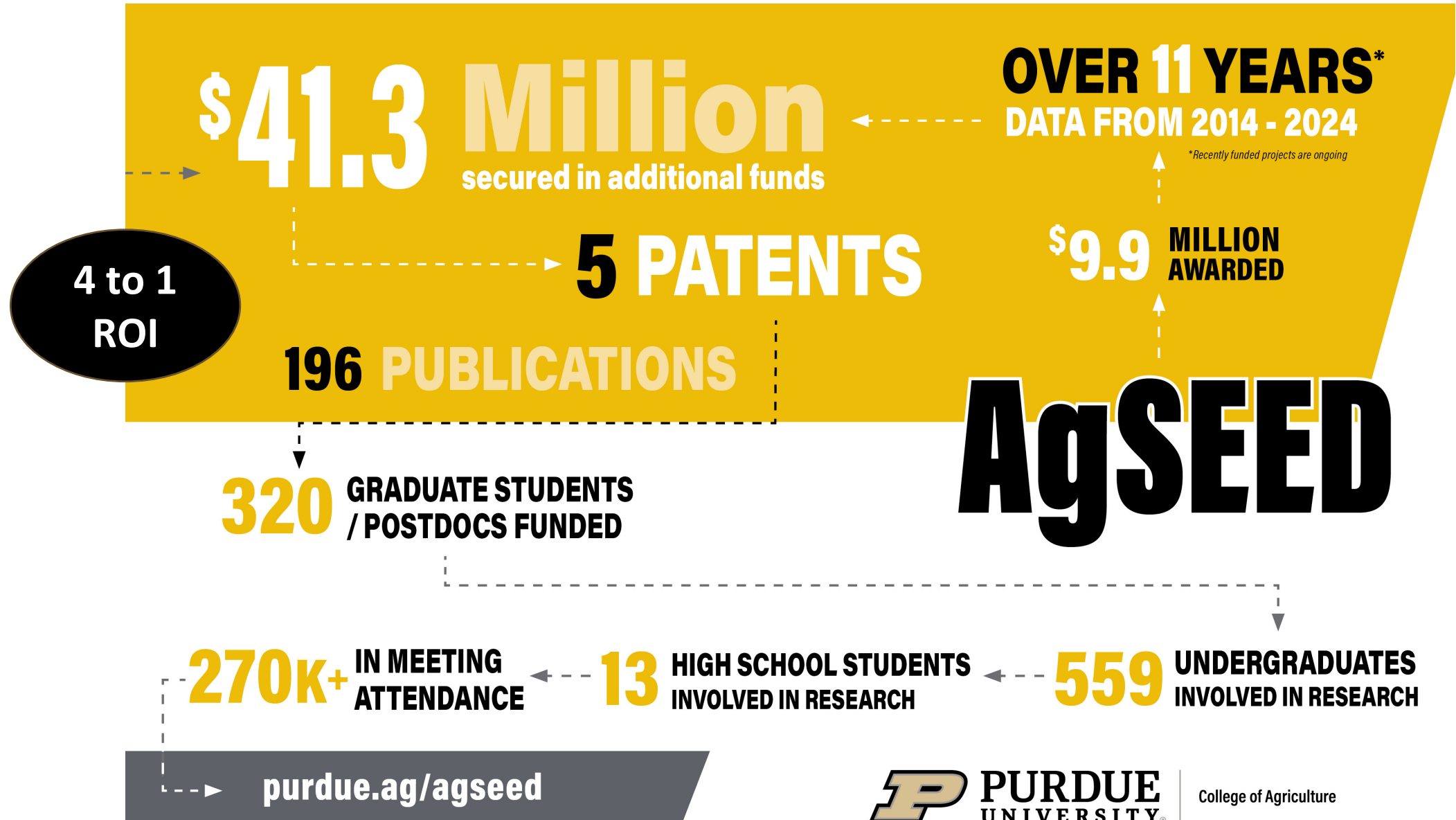


College of Agriculture - Research

- **Another strong year for research support**
 - \$97.7M external research awards
 - 20:1 ROI
 - Ensures faculty doing cutting-edge research & teaching our undergraduates
 - 690 Graduate Students for Fall 2024



College of Agriculture - Research



Ag/Eng

Ag/Polytech

Seeding collaborative initiatives that
provide technical solutions to solve ag and
natural resource problems.

4 GRANT
CYCLES
Eng 2018, '20, '22, '23
Polytech '21

24 PROJECTS
3 finishing under NCE's
\$1.1M COMMITTED

13 MAJOR (>\$150K)
OUTSIDE
AWARDS
\$11.3M TOTAL
OUTSIDE
FUNDING

10 to 1 ROI

23 PUBLISHED PAPERS

43 GRADUATES
TRAINED

29 CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

19 UNDERGRADUATES
TRAINED



College of Agriculture - Extension

- **Professional Development Conference – Dec. 4-5**
 - More than 400 Purdue Extension professionals registered
- **Future of Extension Task Force Update**
 - Delivered report in late August
 - Moving forward with some of the recommendations
 - Working with HR on job structure
 - Started On-Campus review
 - Developing new partnerships and cooperative agreements
 - No other decisions have been made. County contracts signed for 2025.
 - University is asking State Legislature for same level of funding as previous budget.



Lenny Farlee

FNR Extension Specialist

2024 Fellow

Society of American Foresters

International Programs in Agriculture

Reminders:

- IPIA Open House **December 12th**, 1-4pm in AGAD 104 (stop by to meet staff).
- Study Abroad Community of Practice for faculty/staff. Next meeting **January 8th at noon** in AGAD 128.
- Lowell Hardin Award for Excellence in International Ag (for faculty): nominations due **February 3rd**.
- Woods Thomas Scholarship (for graduate students): nominations due Feb **February 25th**.
- IPIA International Travel Grants to support faculty participation in conferences.
 - For travel from July 1-December 31, 2024: submission deadline **April 30th**.
- International Research Academy: year-long program for faculty interested in international research.
 - Second cohort underway now. Watch for announcement for 2025-26 applications in the spring.

For more information on all of the above and more, visit the IPIA website.

Office of Multicultural Programs



This year's theme will be "**Algorithmic Justice.**" The speakers and events will be related to the role that artificial intelligence plays in advancing the strategic goal of inclusive excellence and excellence at scale.

THANK YOU

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