

Department of Agricultural Economics

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The following table shows the assessment methods used and numbers of individuals assessed for the degree programs in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Degree Program(s) Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
B.S. AGECE & AGBU	Exit interviews	58
M.S. & Ph.D. AGECE	Survey of Alumni of Graduate Programs	In progress
B.S. AGECE & AGBU	Team Competition at regional & national meetings	22

Analysis and Findings:

- Exit interviews provide the Department Head and curriculum committee a feel for the students' understanding of whether their curriculum prepared them for their next venture in the real world. Which courses are meeting the needs of the students and which are not? What areas do the students see missing in the curriculum? We are in the middle of a reorganization of our courses and this feedback continues to help us analyze the impact of this reorganization.
- The Department participated in the Survey of Alumni of Graduate Programs. We included our own questions to help with our ongoing review of the topics and requirements for our graduate degrees. Our curriculum committee is using the results to consider changes in our M.S. programs.
- The Department sponsored a team from the OSU chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association club that competed at the Student Marketing Competition at the national organization's annual meetings in San Diego. We also sponsored a team from our Aggie-X Club that participated in the American Agricultural Economics Association quiz bowl and another group to the Southern Agricultural Economics Regional Quiz bowl. The experience of the students provides feedback on how our curriculum and students compare to others around the country.

Uses of Assessment Results:

- As we have discussed the last several years, we began implementation of revised and new courses Spring 2001. We implemented new option sheets Fall 1999 which have been revised to agree with the revised and new courses. Therefore, at the undergraduate level we have moved into a transition period for assessment. Unless major problems with the new curriculum show up in exit interviews or discussions with employers, we expect few changes for the next few years. We had a faculty discussion of the courses by discipline during the summer of 2002 to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the changes we have implemented. Also, the curriculum committee continues to examine the results of the Alumni Surveys of Undergraduates and Graduates along with other information to figure out if additional courses in the finance and accounting areas are needed. We are examining whether to create additional options or minors.