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## Agricultural Sciences [AGSC]

**Cycles included in this report:**

Jun 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

## **Program Name: Agricultural Sciences [AGSC]**

**Reporting Cycle: Jun 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025**

### **1 Is this program offered via Distance Learning?**

100% Traditional or less than 50% Distance/Traditional

### **2 Is this program offered at an off-site location?**

No

### **2.1 If yes to previous, provide addresses for each location where 50% or more of program credits may be earned.**

### **3 Example of Program Improvement**

2020-2021:

All program faculty were learned to teach online. Students had to adapt to online learning platforms and collaborations online in course work and communications.

2021-2022:

Schedules were adjusted for lab times and course offerings to provide more options for students. Several courses were offered online or in a web hybrid format to accommodate students.

2022-2023:

No major changes - just evaluated the previous adjustments for improvements.

2023-2024:

Stat 231 was included as a Math requirement in all curriculums except Pre-veterinary Medicine to further support understanding of data analysis. This increased opportunities both in applied settings and those going into graduate school.

2024-2025:

AGRI 401 - Agricultural Statistics was removed from the curriculum and replaced with elective hour opportunities. This course was not necessary with the addition of STAT 231 the previous year. Many courses in the curriculum were redesigned or had prerequisites updated to better reflect the needs of more students entering college with core credit hours. ANSC 101 was offered in the spring for the first time to meet this demand.

Seminar courses (AGRI 340 and AGRI 441) were offered in 7 week formats instead of full semesters. This adjustment did not work.

#### 4 Program Highlights from the Reporting Year

2020-2021:

This year, our students were more successful (7/10) in gaining admission to veterinary school than the previous year. Students participated in internships, student jobs, and experiences that helped students achieve this success. Our students participated in multiple community service events over the year including providing food for hurricane victims and supplies for area livestock producers. We continue to build a strong internship program that has resulted in a pipeline for graduates to gain entry level positions in industry. Our students are competing on a National level for these positions. During the summer of 2020 many of our students were not able to participate in internships due to COVID restrictions.

2021-2022:

Students were able to participate in summer internships throughout the state and United States. We began a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank to establish a community kitchen and continued our partnership with the city of Lake Charles to ReTreeLC. These collaborations provide community outreach and service opportunities for our students. We continue to work with the State FFA office to provide career development events and leadership development events for high school students. This provides an excellent recruiting opportunity for our department.

2022-2023:

Rodeo Men's team was reserve national champions. Shea Fournier was National champion in Saddle Bronc riding. Kamryn Duncan was national champion in Goat Tying. Continued relationship with FFA hosting Area contests. Three M.S. students completed their theses. Madason Guitreau was accepted into the graduate program at Mississippi State. Students attended the IPPC event in Atlanta. Internship program is continuing strong.

2023-2024:

Hosted the largest FFA event ever in Louisiana with over 1400 participants at our McNeese Invitational contests. Hosted Rice Field Day for SWLA rice growers. Hosted Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers educational and leadership event. Two M.S. students completed their theses.

2024-2025:

Received a grant for drones to utilize in courses. Participated in the Citgo Tree Planting with a faculty member that assisted the City of Lake Charles with the grant. Continued outreach hosting USDA FSA at the Kinder and Main Campus farm hosting training for their new recruits. Hosted Rice Field Day for SWLA rice growers. Expand presence with Second Harvest and open up opportunities to move product that we raise (potatoes, watermelons) at our farms through their mobile market. Bring back college career fair for Agricultural and Dietetics students. Continued success with 7/9 pre-veterinary students accepted into veterinary schools. Hosted largest FFA livestock evaluation event ever in November.

#### 5 Program Mission

The Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences program will provide education and training in all aspects of agricultural education while focusing specifically on the following criteria: a) preparing students for careers in agriculture, b) preparing students for graduate or professional school, c) introducing students to the role of research and biotechnology through agriculture, d) contribute to the intellectual development of students, and d) enable students to effectively participate in and make significant contributions to contemporary society.

#### 6 Institutional Mission Reference

The B.S. in Agricultural Sciences supports McNeese State University's fundamental mission to provide successful education of the undergraduate students and services to the employers and communities in its region. The Agricultural Science program is a McNeese special feature program with opportunities for experiential learning at three working farms and the Center for Advancement of Meat Processing and Production (CAMPP).

## 7 Assessment and Benchmark AGEC 201 Term Paper

Assessment: AGEC 201 Term Paper.

Benchmark: 70% of students will earn a C or higher on the AGEC 201 - Introduction to Agricultural Economics term paper.

Prior to 2017-2018, the benchmark was 90% of the students completing the course will be at the C level or higher (term paper is 30% of final grade).

### 7.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students that completed the course	Students that received a C or better	
		#	%
2020-2021	91	80	88%
2021-2022	105	98	93%
2022-2023	69	60	87%
2023-2024	86	80	93%
2024-2025	100	93	93%

#### 7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

This class is taught only in the fall semester. We experienced two hurricanes during the semester that forced us to miss extended periods of time and move to an online/virtual platform. We met the benchmark of 70% passing with a 'C' or better but we had multiple (10) students withdraw and seventeen (17) not complete the course on time. During a typical year term papers would be submitted as a hard copy draft and then a final hard copy. Because of the lack of classroom and office space only an electronic copy was graded.

2021-2022:

Benchmark of 70% was met. Instructor handles substandard grades by giving feedback and allowing students to make corrections and improvements to the paper before final submission.

2022-2023:

Benchmark of 70% passing with a grade of C or better was met. Benchmark could be changed.

2023-2024:

Benchmark was met. A concerted effort to get students to submit papers early for proofreading has helped to maintain improved scores on the papers.

2024-2025:

Benchmark was met.

## 8 Assessment and Benchmark AGRI 441 Final Presentation

Assessment: Students are required to research a relevant topic, write an abstract, and present the abstract at the conclusion of the course.

Benchmark: 70% of students will earn a C or higher on the AGRI 441 - Seminar final presentation. Prior to 2017-2018, the benchmark was that there will be a 70% increase in students completing their final presentation with a C or better.

2022-2023 - Benchmark standard was increased to students earning a B or higher on the Seminar Final presentation

## 8.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students that completed AGRI 441	Students that completed Final presentation with a C (* - B) or better	
		#	%
2020-2021	69	60	87%
2021-2022	48	47	98%
2022-2023*	36	26	72%
2023-2024*	42	39	93%
2024-2025*	52	50	96%

### 8.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

Benchmark was met, will continue to monitor. We have started to look at success rate in junior seminar AGRI 340 to determine success in senior seminar. Even though we met the benchmark we had 7 students that did not complete the course either with withdrawals or incomplete grades. One semester (Fall 2020), seminars were completed virtually due to hurricanes Laura and Delta.

2021-2022:

Benchmark was met.

2022-2023:

Benchmark was changed to students that completed the final presentation with a B or higher. This was to set a higher standard for both students and faculty.

2023-2024:

Benchmark was met. Continued emphasis on feedback and a higher standard of excellence for improved communication and oral presentation.

2024-2025:

Highest performance level was achieved. Will reevaluate benchmark and eliminate refereed journal articles as a sole source for presentations. Students will be able to have options with those desiring to work in service or sales industries being allowed to use alternate subject material that is more in line with their goals.

## 9 Assessment and Benchmark AGRI 441 Senior Exit Exam

Benchmark: 90% of students will demonstrate improvement in presentation skills from the initial presentation to the final presentation each semester.

### 9.1 Data

Academic Year	Students that improved presentation skills from initial to final	
	#	%
2020-2021	—	—
2021-2022	44/48	92%
2022-2023	31/36	86%
2023-2024	39/42	93%
2024-2025	47/52	90%

### 9.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

2021-2022:

Students have met the benchmark. Instructors will focus on improving feedback earlier in the semester.

2022-2023:

Students did not meet the benchmark. Enrollment was lower (36 vs. 48) from the previous year and possibly reflected the Covid dip (many of these students would have been freshmen in 2019 - 2020) and more Teams presentations during their AGRI 340 - Junior Seminar courses. We are focused even more on hands-on development of presentations skills and giving multiple smaller presentations earlier in the semester.

2023-2024:

Students met the benchmark. Efforts that were implemented the previous year will be continued.

2024-2025:

Students attained the benchmark.