

2011-2015 Agricultural Education¹ National Research Agenda Priorities, Key Outcomes, and Major Research Teams

PRIORITY 1

Public and Policy Maker Understanding of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Key Outcome: Consumers and policy makers will have an accurate understanding of and informed opinions about agriculture and natural resources. Further, policy decisions at all levels will reflect win-win solutions that ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life in communities across the nation.

Major Research Teams/Programs:

- Youth, consumer, and policy maker knowledge of agriculture and natural resources
- Effective messaging for public and policy groups

PRIORITY 2

New Technologies, Practices, and Products Adoption Decisions

Key Outcome: Agriculturists, rural landowners, homeowners, and consumers will embrace new technologies, practices, and products derived through agricultural and natural resources research.

Major Research Teams/Programs:

- Agriculture technology adoption drivers and inhibitors
- Interventions that enhance successful technology adoption

PRIORITY 3

Sufficient Scientific and Professional Workforce That Addresses the Challenges of the 21st Century

Key Outcome: A sufficient supply of well-prepared agricultural scientists and professionals will drive sustainable growth, scientific discovery, and innovation in public, private, and academic settings.

Major Research Teams/Programs:

- Student academic and career decision making
- Quality, diversity, and number of students

PRIORITY 4

Meaningful, Engaged Learning in All Environments

Key Outcome: Learners in all agricultural education learning environments will be actively and emotionally engaged in learning, leading to high levels of achievement, life and career readiness, and professional success.

Major Research Teams/Programs:

- Highly engaged and motivated learners
- Educator preparation, practice, and professional development

¹ includes formal and nonformal education, leadership development, and communication in agriculture and natural resources

PRIORITY 5

Effective and Efficient Educational Programs

Key Outcome: Highly effective educational programs will meet the academic, career, and developmental needs of diverse learners in all settings and at all levels.

Key Outcome: Accurate and reliable data that describe the quality and impact of educational programs and outreach efforts at all levels will be distributed to respective decision groups (e.g. students, parents, administration, industry, policy makers).

Major Research Teams/Programs:

- Attributes of exemplary agricultural education programs
- Program adaptability, change, and improvement

PRIORITY 6

Vibrant, Resilient Communities

Key Outcome: Local communities will have effective leaders and engaged citizens who ensure high quality educational and career development opportunities for youth and adults and proactively sustain an environment conducive to positive community change.

Major Research Teams/Programs:

- Sustained dynamic community leadership and civic engagement
- Educational dimensions of vibrant rural communities

Note: The research priorities and key outcomes listed above were drawn from the National Research Agenda released in 2011 as a special project of the American Association for Agricultural Education (edited by Dr. David Doerfert at Texas Tech University).