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Iowa State University Department of Animal Science Undergraduate Teaching Update

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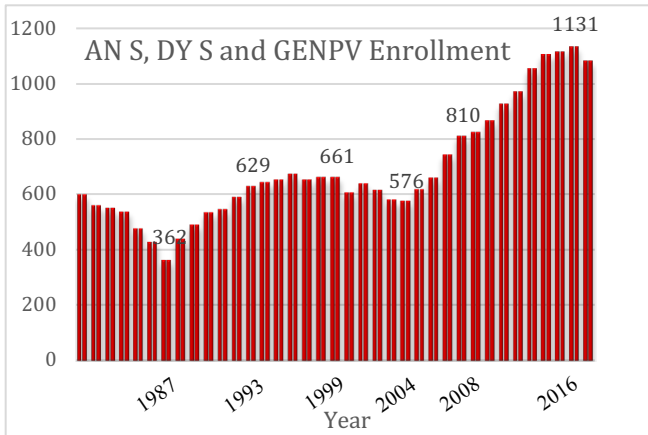
Iowa State University Department of Animal Science Undergraduate Teaching Update

A.S. Leaflet R3281

Jodi Sterle, Harman Endowed Professor for Undergraduate Teaching and Learning and Teaching Section Leader, Department of Animal Science

Enrollment Overview

For the first time in eleven years, undergraduate student enrollment in the Animal Science department decreased slightly. A total of 1,078 undergraduate students were enrolled as Animal Science, Dairy Science and General Pre-Veterinary Medicine majors fall semester 2017. Placement numbers remain high, with over 97% of graduates either entering graduate or professional school or gaining employment within six months of graduation. Undergraduate student enrollment in the Department of Animal Science reached a record in 2016 with 1131 students.



Undergraduate Enrollment – By the Numbers

Both the number of Dairy Science students, as well as the number of General Pre-Veterinary Medicine students has decreased compared to recent years. Compared to two years ago (2015), the number of DY S majors has decreased by almost 30%, and the number of GENPV majors has decreased over 66%. The number of GENPV majors is not concerning, as students declaring general pre-veterinary medicine as a “major” are encouraged to find a permanent major that has a pre-veterinary option where they can also work towards earning a Bachelor’s of Science degree. A concerted effort to encourage General Pre-Vet students to declare a major (often, but not always, Animal Science), earlier in their collegiate career appears to be taking effect. This may have also been a contributing factor in the decrease in Animal Science majors; if General Pre-Vet

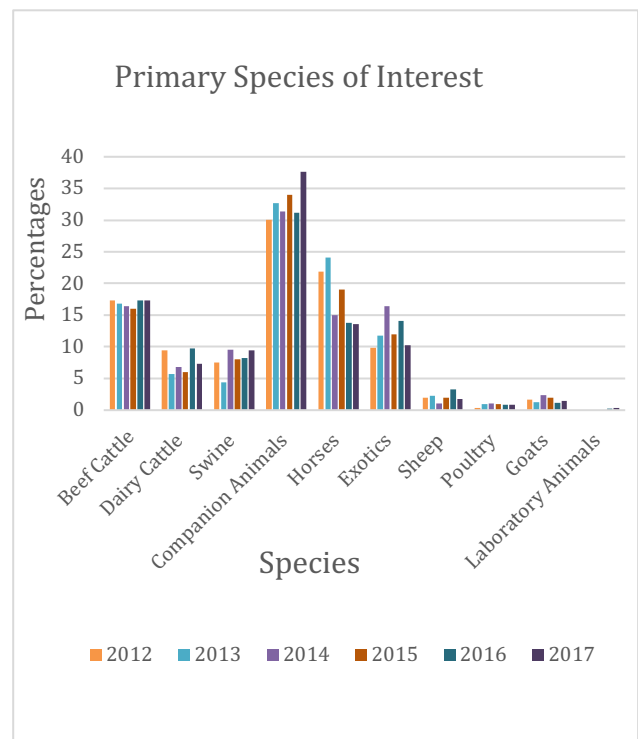
students are declaring a major earlier, they may be in the official count for the Department of Animal Science majors a shorter period of time. The decreasing number of Dairy Science majors bears watching to determine if this is truly a trend.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	1017
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	31
General Pre-Vet undergraduate majors*	30
Total ANS departmental undergraduates	1078

* The Animal Science department manages the undeclared pre-veterinary medicine program (General Pre-Veterinary Medicine) for the university.

Incoming Students

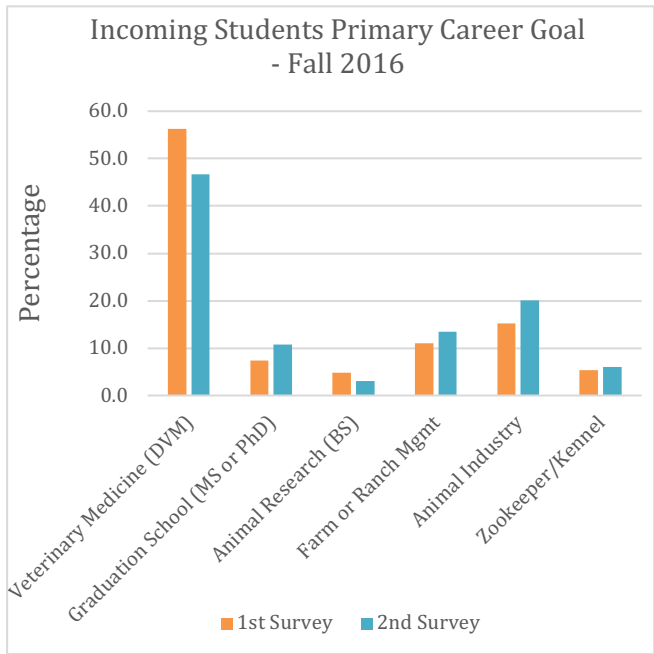
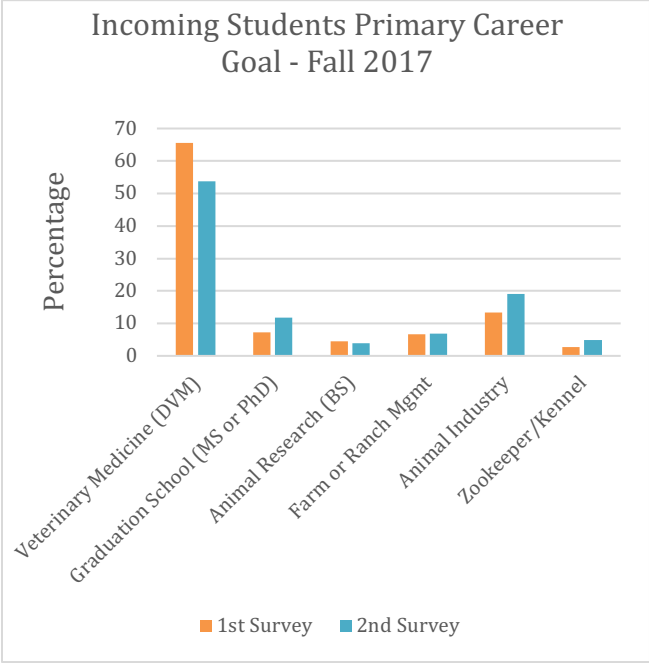
Incoming students were surveyed during the second week of classes fall semester in AN S 110: Orientation in Animal Science. Companion animals (household pets) were the most popular each of the past six years (2012-2017). One item of interest includes the addition of the “laboratory animals” category. This category was added in 2016 with the addition of AN S 228X: Laboratory Animal Science course. Additionally, a single lecture on laboratory animals was included in AN S 114: Survey of the Animal Industry. A small cohort of



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students indicated a strong interest in these species as early as their first semester on campus.

As mentioned, incoming students were surveyed the second week of the semester. A second survey with most of the same questions was given at the end of the semester to determine any changes amongst first-semester students. Both freshmen and transfer students answered the survey. Results of a comparison between the two surveys in both 2016 and 2017 are presented below and showed a marked decrease of students indicating veterinary medicine as their primary career choice. This may be due to a variety of factors, including students struggling with their first semester courses, however, it may also be due to the exposure of the breadth of opportunities in the animal sciences (including vet school) that students are exposed to in their first semester in Animal Science. Students are not discouraged from applying to veterinary school, but exposure to a variety of careers in the animal sciences may allow students to determine their career path sooner and therefore have more opportunity to be better prepared. Conversely, exposure to other careers in animal science that do not interest pre-vet students may reaffirm their commitment to vet school.



Placement of Graduates

Animal Science and Dairy Science graduates are still in high demand by employers. At the time of this report, Spring 2016 graduate data is the latest available, as the employment data is compiled six months post-graduation. Consistent with previous data, approximately 28% of graduates are continuing their education. Placement information is presented below.

	Specific Major:			Total
	Summer	Fall	Spring	
Animal Science				
Employed	10	38	93	141
Major Related	10	33	88	131
Employed in Iowa	5	29	51	85
Employed out of Iowa	5	9	42	56
Continuing Education	2	10	46	58
Seeking	0	3	3	6
Not Seeking	0	0	1	1
No Info	0	2	9	11

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Employment Status of Bachelor Degree Recipients by Major
Summer Semester 2015 to Spring Semester 2016

Specific Major:
Dairy Science

	Summer	Fall	Spring	Total
Employed	0	2	7	9
Major Related	0	2	7	9
Employed in Iowa	0	0	5	5
Employed out of Iowa	0	2	2	4
Continuing Education	0	1	4	5
Seeking	0	0	0	0
Not Seeking	0	0	1	1
No Info	0	0	0	0

*Source: ISU CALS Career Center Annual Report/2016