

Annual Report of the Western Illinois University's Agricultural Education Program
2019-2020 Academic Year
Submitted by Dr. Andrew J. Baker

General Comments:

I have just completed my twenty-first year as the teacher educator for the Agricultural Education program at Western Illinois University. I am very fortunate to have had some great students that have followed their dream and became teachers of excellence. I have had two graduates that have pursued their PhD's in Agricultural Education and are now developing future teachers at Illinois State University and Murray State University. Several of my graduates have been selected for teaching awards, which can be attributed to their teaching excellence. This program has produced teachers that are teaching in seven different states impacting students across the country. I have spent two decades as the sole faculty member preparing students for a career in Agricultural Education as well as Director of the School of Agriculture for nine of those years. Agricultural Education majors continue to secure positions and remain in the profession assisting with state placement and retention issues. It is a good feeling, because the program has graduated 92 candidates in this twenty-one-year period. Of those 92 candidates, 80 were placed into teaching positions, which has established an 87% placement rate. Of those 80 candidates, 53 are still teaching, which is 66% retention rate. However, 176 students have at least enrolled in one or more Agricultural Education courses over the twenty-year period, which indicates that 48% (n=84) did not pursue Agricultural Education as a major. Some of the variables that impact the percentage of students not wanting to pursue the teaching field certainly are state license requirements. Over the past several years, the state has increased the pass scores for the Basic Skills Test (TAP) and added the ACT composite of 22 as a passing score for admittance into teacher education. The state has since dropped the ACT/SAT requirement, which may help teacher education programs across the state. The edTPA has been fully integrated since fall 2015 semester and is the final assessment to determine if a student receives their IL teaching license. For some students, the edTPA does impact their desire to complete the state teacher licensure requirements. I feel our teacher education program is one of the premier programs in the state. Our placement and retention rates are some of the best in the state over the last several years. Over a twenty-one-year period, we have sustained an 87% placement rate (n=80) and a 66% retention rate (n=53) for our program, which I believe is something to be proud of. I believe these statistics prove we are the institution of choice for Agricultural Education in Illinois!

The curriculum is still field-based, which allows our students to gain those valuable hours of practice prior to student teaching. We collected seven years of work-sample data from my students prior to full implementation of the edTPA. We have had 19 students take and pass the edTPA for a program average score of 49 points out of 75 points. The current pass score is a score of 39. I am very proud of the 19 program completers that tackled this activity over the last six years and handled it with a great deal of professionalism. The West Central Agricultural Education Advisory Council met twice over the academic year with stable attendance. We attended the IAVAT Student Branch bus trip this past fall. Our Agricultural Education numbers have remained fairly stable with about 23 majors in the program. There were only 21 Agricultural Education graduates state-wide this year (as shown below), which WIU had six of those state-wide graduates (29%). The state-wide number of graduates (N=21) is down from 27 last year. It is illustrated on the last chart (**highlighted**) that WIU is the top institution in

placement rate (79%) among the other three Illinois agricultural institutions in the state and second in the number of graduates placed over that 13-year period (N=45). More importantly, WIU holds the lowest FTE among the four teacher preparation institutions (WIU = .5 FTE, ISU = 2.0 FTE's, SIU = 2.0 FTE's, U of I = 3.0 FTE's). WIU is not the largest Agricultural Education program in the state, but it certainly is the most productive program when comparing FTE's and placement rates.

2019-2020 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	4	4	100%
SIU	5	3	60%
U of I	6	5	83%
WIU	6	5	83%
Totals	21	17	81%

2018-2019 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	6	5	83%
SIU	7	3	43%
U of I	13	8	62%
WIU	1	1	100%
Totals	27	17	63%

2017-2018 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	7	6	86%
SIU	9	8	89%
U of I	13	12	92%
WIU	7	7	100%
Totals	36	33	92%

2016-2017 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	5	3	60%
SIU	7	6	86%
U of I	7	6	86%
WIU	2	2	100%
Totals	21	17	81%

2015-2016 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	6	4	66.7%
SIU	4	2	50%
U of I	6	4	66.7%
WIU	6	4	66.7%
Totals	22	14	64%

2014-2015 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	3	2	66%
SIU	2	2	100%
U of I	11	7	64%
WIU	1	1	100%
Totals	17	12	71%

2013-2014 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	0	0	0%
SIU	3	2	66%
U of I	5	3	60%
WIU	4	4	100%
Totals	12	9	75%

2012-2013 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	3	3	100%
SIU	2	0	0%
U of I	3	0	0%
WIU	3	3	100%
Totals	11	6	55%

2011-2012 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	5	3	60%
SIU	7	4	57%
U of I	11	7	64%
WIU	5	5	100%
Totals	28	19	68%

2010-2011 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	8	7	88%
SIU	13	3	23%
U of I	11	4	36%
WIU	3	1	33%
Totals	35	15	43%

2009-2010 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

Institution	# Grads	# Placed	% Placed
ISU	5	2	40%
SIU	12	4	33%
U of I	1	0	0%
WIU	8	6	75%
Totals	26	12	46%

2008-2009 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

Institution	# Grads	# Placed	% Placed
ISU	4	2	50%
SIU	8	3	37.5%
U of I	6	2	33.3%
WIU	5	3	60%
Totals	23	10	43.5%

2007-2008 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

Institution	# Grads	# Placed	% Placed
ISU	2	2	100%
SIU	7	0	0%
U of I	5	5	100%
WIU	6	4	66.6%
Totals	19	11	58%

(2007-2020) 13 Year Running Total of State-Wide Graduate in Agricultural Education

Institution	# Grads	# Placed	% Placed
ISU	58	43	74%
SIU	86	40	47%
U of I	98	63	64%
WIU	57	45	79%
Totals	299	191	64%

West Central Agricultural Education Advisory Council:

Chair: Mr. Mitch Miller (Midwest Central HS)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Colton Downs (Canton HS)

Secretary: Any Agricultural Education major present

Agricultural Education Students:

There were 6 student teachers this year and 6 program completers that were licensed by the State of Illinois this year. We have been able to continue our quest for excellent student teaching placements. Students excelled in their student teaching placements, because of the excellence in the mentoring process.

Name	Semester	Stud. Teach. Center	Employment Status
Emily Millburg	Fl 2019	Southeastern	Chester HS
Megan Meade	Sp 2019	Unity-Mendon	Cerro Gordo HS

Cassie Perrin	Sp 2019	Seneca	Brownstown HS
Haley Smith	Sp 2019	Elmwood	Abingdon-Avon HS
Anna Shupe	Sp 2019	Pittsfield	Paris HS
Brianna Parada	Sp 2019	Macomb	Disney Intern

Each student teacher had at least one face-to-face visit from me this year. Due to COVID 19, I was unable to complete three face-to-face visits. However, I was able to complete three visits utilizing virtual visitations with the student teacher and mentoring teachers during the pandemic. Each face-to-face visit would at least be three hours in length. Each virtual visit last at least 30 minutes or longer to discuss on-line learning that was taking place and their progress on their edTPA's. I logged in about 700 miles of travel and 70 employment hours for student teacher visitations this year. The numbers of miles have decreased along with a decrease in employment hours than last year due to the pandemic.

The placement rate for this year's group is 83% (5 out of 6), which has declined from last year's placement rate. The program has established a 100% placement rate for 7 out of the last 9 years.

Retention rates are still a priority of the program, which are highlighted in the table below. The class of 2018-2019 (N=1) has established a 100% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 1 retaining their position going into the 2020-2021 academic year. The class of 2017-2018 (N=7) has established a 100% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 7 retaining positions going into the 2020-2021 academic year. The class of 2016-2017 (N=2) has established a 50% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 1 retaining their position going into the 2020-2021 academic year. One graduate decided to leave the teaching field after 3 years of teaching. The class of 2015-2016 (N=4) has established a 100% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 4 retaining positions going into the 2020-2021 academic year. The class of 2014-2015 (N=1) has established a 100% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 1 retaining a position going into the 2020-2021 academic year. The class of 2013-2014 (N=4) has established a 75% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 3 retaining positions going into the 2020-2021 academic year. The 2012-2013 class (N=3) has established 66.7% retention in the profession with two graduates still in the teaching profession. The 2011-2012 class has established a 20% retention rate with 1 out of the 5 left in the teaching profession. The 2010-2011 group has established 100% retention rate (1 out of 1) among the graduates who have been placed. The 2009-2010 (N=8) group had seven out of the eight were placed with five of the seven (71%) have been retained in the profession. One individual is still with their original school. One hundred percent (3 out of 3) of the 2008-2009 class who have been placed are still teaching. Fifty percent (2 out of 4) of the 2007-2008 class have been retained for their 13th year contract. Thirty-three percent (1 out of 3) of the 2006-2007 class are in the teaching field today. The one individual has signed his 14th year contract in his initial school in Iowa. One graduate out of this class has secured employment at Murray State University as their Agricultural Education faculty member who earned his PhD in Agricultural Education from Iowa State. The 2005-2006 class sits at 50% (2 out of 4) of the placed individuals are still in the teaching field. Three individuals (100%) remain of the 2004-2005 class. No individuals of 2003-2004 (0 out of 3) class are teaching at this time, but one individual taught for 11 years. Fifty percent (2 out of 4) of 2002-2003 graduates remain in the profession. Seventy-one percent (5 out of 7) of the 2001-2002 graduates are still in the profession. One graduate has earned his PhD in

Agricultural Education and is the new Assistant Professor in Agricultural Education at Illinois State University. Seventy-five percent (3 out of 4) of the 2000-2001 placed individuals have still been retained in the profession and are entering their 20th year with all 3 still with their initial school, which is almost unheard of today. WIU's graduates are still succeeding very well in the profession, which is the main objective of the program.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1st Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<u>2018-2019 Class</u>			
Lindsey O'Hara	Sp 18	Louisiana, MO	Louisiana, MO 2 nd year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1st Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<u>2017-2018 Class</u>			
Kacie Priebe	Fl 17	Covington, GA	Covington, GA 3 rd year
Martin Nall	Fl 17	Unity-Mendon (1.5)	Camp Point 2 nd year
Dusti Ingles	Fl 17	Alton (1)	Freeburg 2 nd year
Brent Nelson	Sp 18	Franklin	Franklin 3 rd year
Christian Thurwanger	Sp 18	Kaneland	Sycamore 2 nd year
Mariana Roberts	Sp18	Payson-Seymour	Payson-Seymour 3 rd year
Colton Downs	Sp 18	Canton	Canton 3 rd year

<u>2016-2017 Class</u>			
Kayla Riedle	Sp 17	Shawnee (Wolf Creek)	3 yrs @ Shawnee left teaching
Samantha Martin	Fl 16	Edinburg	Edinburg 4 th year

<u>2015-2016 Class</u>			
Kole Stadt	Sp 16	Prairie Central	Prairie Central 5 th year
Grace Foster	Fl 15	Rushville (Jan '16)	Rushville 5 th year
Evan Sheppard	Fl 15	Beardstown (Jan '16)	Griggsvile-Perry 4 th year
Richard Houzenga	Fl 15	Riverdale (Jan '16)	Riverdale 5 th year

<u>2014-2015 Class</u>			
Trent Taber	Sp 15	Cambridge	Cambridge 6 th year

<u>2013-2014 Class</u>			
Liz Fanning	Fl 13	Hartsburg-Emden (4 yrs)	Edwardsville 3 rd year
Jeff Rieck	Fl 13	Cambridge (1.5 years)	JJC Farm Manager
Riley Hintzsche	Sp 14	Streator	Streator 7 th year
Kaylyn Schiber	Sp 14	Livingston, CA	Livingston 7 th year

<u>2012-2013 Class</u>			
Teri Hooper	Fl 12	Payson-Seymour (1)	Chiropractor's Office
Julie Herrmann	Sp 13	Indian Creek	Indian Creek 8 th year
Emily Huntington	Sp 13	Belvidere	Belvidere 8 th year

2011-2012 Class

Wyatt McGrew	Sp 12	Rushville (3 years)	Macomb 6 th year
Emily Bogner	Sp 12	Abingdon (1 year)	Out west
Veronica Handegan	Fl 11	Edinburg (1.5) Mattoon (2)	Title Insurance
Rachel Skien	Fl 11	B-town (1) Havana (3) Lewis(1)	Not teaching
Cory Sprung	Fl 11	Bluffs	Back in the state not teaching

2010-2011 Class

Ashley Mason	Sp 11	Grad school (U of F)	Monsanto
Kelli Titus	Sp 11	program non-completer	
Bryan Schullian	Fl 10	Southeastern	Southeastern 10 th year
Jennifer Twardowski	Fl 10	Overseas teaching	Graduate School in CA

2009-2010 Class

Kate Wedekind	Sp 10	4 years of teaching	St. Elmo 3 rd
Samantha White	Sp 10	Bank Teller	Bank Teller
Bonnie Peterson	Sp 10	Monmouth-Roseville (1)	Fort Madison, IA 8 th year
Laura Belville	Sp 10	VIT (1) Liberty (2)	In St..Louis MO
Garrett Helregel	Sp 10	Dieterich	Dieterich 11 th year
Doug Nelson	Sp 10	8 years of teaching	Selling seed corn
Mallory Swanson	Fl 09	Kewanee (4)	Knoxville 5 th year
Liz Alloway	Fl 09	Jacksonville (3)	Bluffs 8 th year

2008-2009 Class

Justin Dikeman	Sp 09	Pioneer Inc.	Pioneer Inc.
Kelly Kretzer	Sp 09	Southeastern (2)	Quincy 5 th year
Cindy Schriener	Sp 08	Milledgeville (3)	Eastland 9 th year
Stacey Rohrscheib	Sp 08	Teaching in SD	In SD 4 th year
Shannon Fatland	FL 08	Wedding planner	Wedding planner

2007-2008 Class

Jackie Burns	Spring 08	4 years of teaching	Stay at home mom
Blaine Hartwick	Spring 08	Triopia (8)	Carrollton 5 th year
Matt Meyer	Spring 08	Stockton (6)	Mendota 7 th year
Kami Kates	Spring 08	8 years of teaching	Stay at home mom
Mary Olson	Spring 08	Midwest Technical Instit.	Midwest Technical Instit.
James Kennedy	Fall 07	Advance Crop Services	Advance Crop Services

2006-2007 Class

Jerry Driscoll	Spring 07	Sigourney, IA	Sigourney, IA 14 th year
Elly Troxell	Spring 07	Polo (2 yrs)	Stay @ home mom
Matt Shultz	Fall 06	Ventura, IA (2.5)	Teacher educator at MSU
Chad Lambert	Fall 06	?????	Pioneer Inc.

2005-2006 Class

Kristie Monier	Spring 06	2 years of teaching	??????
Miles Allen	Fall 05	Illini Central (2007)	Illini Central 15 th year
Robin Fisher	Fall 05	3 years of teaching	????
Alison Thompson	Fall 05	VIT (2) Avon (6)	Bushnell-PC 5 th year

2004-2005 Class

Tara Lafollette	Spring 05	P H (2) Beard (4)	Elwood 7 th year
Jennifer Pickett	Fall 04	Winchester (1 ½) Astoria (2)	Williamsville 7 th year
Jeremiah Simmons	Fall 04	Lewistown (1 ½)	Astoria 4 th year

2003-2004 Class

Corey Terwilliger	Spring 04	11 years of teaching	????
Adam Duffield	Spring 04	1 year of teaching	Unknown
Sara Evans	Spring 04	1 year of teaching	Restaurant owner

2002-2003 Class

Nicole Thornton	Spring 03	Rantoul (2)	Delevan 7 th year
John Davin	Spring 03	Palmyra (2) Edwards (13)	Staunton 3 rd year
Caylin Mahr	Spring 03	4 years of teaching	teaching math MR
Tim Phillips (C) (G)	Spring 03	2 years of teaching	Self-employed

2001-2002 Class

Jay Solomonson	Spring 02	Orion (17)	Ag Ed professor @ ISU
Sam DeCounter	Spring 02	Carthage (14)	WP 5 th year
Tad White (C)	Spring 02	Lewistown	Unknown
Wendy Leenerts (C)	Spring 02	Waterloo (1) Liberty (3) Authur (10)	Hoopston 2 nd year
Rhonda Marshang(G)	Spring 02	Annawan 1 st year	unknown
Dan Oilar (G)	Fall 01	Nauvoo-Colusa (6.5)	Kahoka, MO 13 th year
Kent Rigg	Fall 01	Chenoa (3.5) Roseville (2)	Williamsfield 14 th year
Darren Moser	Fall 01	IL Dept of Ag	IL Department of Agriculture
Dan Klein	Fall 01	Family Farm	Working on Family Farm

2000-2001 Class

Amy Frericks-Lucie	Spring 01	Unity-Mendon	Unity-Mendon 20th year
Chad Mahlers	Spring 01	Serena	Serena 20th year
Aaron Heartt	Spring 01	Aledo	Aledo 20th year
Emily Bagett	Spring 01	Special Ed. Assist.	Bowling Green, MO
L.C. Coghill	Fall 00	West Pike (3)	Grad school

1999-2000 Class

Jason Timerman	Spring 00	Westmer (1) Jerseyville (3)	IA instructor Jacksonville
Mike Frederickson	Fall 99	CHSAS (1) Harvard (2)	?????

Currently, there are 6 students that are arranged to student teach this upcoming 2020-2021 academic year. I will have one student teacher planned for the fall 2020 semester, which are **Mr.**

Brandon Livingston and Hannah Libby. They will be student teaching at **Eastland and Mercer County** respectively. I will have four student teachers planned for the spring 2021 semester, which are, **Ms. Sydney Riden, Ms. Courtney Thorman, Mrs. Rachel Whitlock, and Ms. Daniela McConville.** They will student teaching at **Cambridge, Seneca, Liberty, and Midwest Central** respectively. I am very excited to utilize two new programs this year as Cambridge and Midwest Central are new to the mix.

I also would like to highlight WIU students who are currently provisionally licensed in Illinois that are teaching agriculture currently, which I think highlights the effectiveness of the School of Agriculture to prepare students with a well-rounded education in agriculture to be able to teach high school students. They are:

Kate Elliott = Jacksonville HS
Abby Smith = Lewistown HS
Max Look = Farmington HS
Matt Hampton = Northwestern-Palmyra HS
Mitch Miller = Midwest Central HS
Kaci McAfee = Southwestern HS
Jennifer Honnold = Illini West HS
Mason Vincent = AC Central HS
Morgan Lemley = Pleasant Plains HS
Darin DeNeal = Carrier Mills-Stonefort HS

There were 10 students enrolled in the Introductory Agricultural Education Course (AgEd 131) this year. They traveled over 500 miles as a group, visiting over two different high school agricultural education programs in Illinois. They had to log in at least 10 hours of classroom observation to meet the course requirements.

The students enrolled in the Planning and Organizing Ag Ed Programs Course (AgEd 331) conducted Ag Literacy Projects with the 3rd and 5th grade classes at St. Paul Elementary School. They logged in over 15 hours of instruction time to complete this project. We taught lessons using the Farm Bureau Ag Mags on dairy, biotechnology, pizza, soybeans, apples, water, nutrition, careers, poultry, and corn.

The students enrolled in the Agriculture Methods Course (Ed 439) logged in over 12 hours of instruction time at West Prairie High School. We taught the first and second periods in both Mr. DeCounter's and Ms. Biswell's classes, so we taught 4 classes each day for six days.

Curriculum Changes:

Institutional change of the "C" to a "C-" grade for all education majors.

External Funding:

This year the WIU's Agricultural Education Program received \$8,900 in funding for program improvement. We were able to get \$50,000 in a GAST Grant for a total of \$58,900 in external funding into the program this year. It was a very good year as far as funding was concerned. We

were able to provide 14 Ag Ed internships this year with four being current WIU students, one being a John Wood student. The program also offered nine internships to high school student. We are looking to expand the internships to more community college and high school students to increase our transfer and new students into the program. We were able to offer \$4000 worth of Ag Ed scholarships as well.

CFFA/Ag Ed Club/PAS:

Being the advisor for these organizations, I feel it is necessary to report the activities of these organizations in this report. We just continue to do very well. We still host the Greenhand Conference, IL State FFA Ag Issues, IL State FFA Job Interview CDE, District 3 Public Speaking, and an Invitational Ag Mech/Horticulture CDE. Here are some of the achievements over the years from my Ag Ed majors:

National PAS Officer (2018-2019) = Sarah Nelson ('20)
National PAS Officer (2014-2015) = Grace Foster ('16)
National PAS Officer (2013-2014) = Riley Hintzsche ('15)
National PAS Officer (2012-2013) = Jennifer Honnold ('14)
National PAS 1st Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2012) = Wyatt McGrew ('12)
National PAS 1st Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2012) = Kaylyn Schiber ('14)
National PAS 1st Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2013) = Riley Hintzsche ('15)
National PAS 1st Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2013) = Riley Hintzsche ('15)
National PAS 2nd Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2014) = Jennifer Honnold ('14)
National PAS 1st Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2014) = Jennifer Honnold ('14)
National PAS 2nd Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2017) = Martin Nall ('17)
National PAS 2nd Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2018) = Mariana Roberts ('18)
National PAS 1st Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2018) = Mariana Roberts ('18)
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2015-2016) = Leslie Borries ('16)
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2015-2016) = Dusti Irwin ('17)
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2009-2010) = Ashley Mason ('11)
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2006-2007) = Matt Meyer ('08)
Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers IAVAT President (2014-2015) = Jay Solomonson ('02)
NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Region 4 Winner (2018-2019) = Bryan Schullian ('10)
NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Award Region 4 Recipient (2018-2019) = Riley Hintzsche ('14)
CATA (California Agricultural Teachers Association) Outstanding Young Teacher Award (2018-2019) = Kaylyn Davenport ('14)