



University of Idaho

**AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
SERVICE**

**STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2026**

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES
Agricultural Research and Extension Service
Strategic Plan
2022-2026

MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences fulfills the intent and purpose of the land-grant mission and serves the food-industry, people and communities of Idaho and our nation:

- through identification of critical needs and development of creative solutions,
- through the discovery, application, and dissemination of science-based knowledge,
- by preparing individuals through education and life-long learning to become leaders and contributing members of society,
- by fostering healthy populations as individuals and as a society,
- by supporting a vibrant economy, benefiting the individual, families and society as a whole.

VALUES STATEMENT

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences values:

- excellence in creative discovery, instruction and outreach,
- open communication and innovation,
- individual and institutional accountability,
- integrity and ethical conduct,
- accomplishment through teamwork and partnership,
- responsiveness and flexibility,
- individual and institutional health and happiness.

VISION STATEMENT

We will be the recognized state-wide leader and innovator in meeting current and future challenges to support healthy individuals, families and communities, and enhance sustainable food systems. We will be respected regionally and nationally through focused areas of excellence in teaching, research and outreach with Extension serving as a critical knowledge bridge between the University of Idaho, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the people of Idaho.

GOAL 1

Innovate: Scholarly and creative products of the highest quality and scope, resulting in significant positive impact for the region and the world.

Objective A: Build a culture of collaboration that increases scholarly and creative productivity through interdisciplinary, regional, national and global partnerships.

Performance Measures:

- i. Number of grant proposals submitted per year, number of grant awards received per year, and amount of grant funding received per year.

FY17 (2016-2017)	FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	Benchmark
351	327	345	397	350
214	280	248	238	300
\$18.5M	\$17.8M	\$17.4M	\$17.2M	\$27M

Benchmark: An annual increase of 8% in funding received through both an increase in submissions (350) and awards (300) to reach \$27 million in research expenditures by 2025¹.

Objective B: Create, validate and apply knowledge through the co-production of scholarly and creative works by students, staff, faculty and diverse external partners.

Performance Measures:

I. Number of graduate students (PhD only).

FY17 (2016-2017)	FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	Benchmark
53	46	49	61	60

Benchmark: Increase the number of graduate students to 60 by 2025².

II. Number of technical publications generated/ revised.

FY17 (2016-2017)	FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	Benchmark
196	212	185	154	240

Benchmark: Increase the number of technical publications to 240 by 2025³.

GOAL 2

Engage: Suggest and influence change that addresses societal needs and global issues, and advances economic development and culture.

Objective A: Inventory and continuously assess engagement programs and select new opportunities and methods that provide solutions for societal or global issues, support economic drivers and/or promote the advancement of culture.

Performance Measures:

I. Number of individuals/families benefiting from Outreach Programs.

FY17 (2016-2017)	FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	Benchmark
360,258	405,739	425,128	440,793	430,000

Benchmark: Increase the number of individuals/families benefiting from Outreach Programs to 430,000 by 2025⁴.

¹ To attain the University of Idaho’s goal of \$135 million in research expenditures by 2025, AERS will need to increase grant funding by 8% annually to maintain the college’s current proportion of university research expenditures at 20%. The number of grants submitted and received is an increase of 8% and 25%, respectively, over the average of the past 4 years.

² To attain the University of Idaho’s goal of 380 by 2025, AERS will need to increase the number of graduate students (PhD students only) to 60 to maintain the college’s current proportion of university graduate students at 16%.

³ To attain the goal of 240 technical publications, AERS will need to increase output of 5% annually over the average output for the past 4 years.

⁴ To attain the University of Idaho Extension goal of 430,000 by 2025, AERS will need to increase the direct teaching contacts by an average of 6% over the contacts for the past year.

II. Number of Youth Participating in 4-H

FY17 (2016-2017)	FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	Benchmark
65,455	70,170	72,766	73,478	75,000

Benchmark: 75,000 participants in 4-H⁵

Key External Factors

- Changes in county, state, federal and industry supported research and extension funding could impact ARES activities.
- Change in the public’s trust in research-based education.
- Comparison of salary and benefits with peer institutions continues to hamper our ability to hire and retain highly qualified individuals within the Agricultural Research and Extension Service.
- Maintenance and replacement of ageing infrastructure continues to impact research and extension productivity. Finding resources to meet these needs is imperative.

Evaluation Process

The Dean's Advisory Board with stakeholders and representatives from agencies in Idaho meets twice annually to review goals and performance of Agricultural Research and Extension. In addition, units (academic departments and extension districts) within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences also have advisory boards that provide feedback toward those individual unit strategic plans and the performance toward those goals. All of the plans fit under the University of Idaho's Strategic Plan.

⁵ To attain the goal of 75,000 youth participating in 4-H by 2025, AERS will need to increase by 4.4% annually over the average participation for the past 4 years.