



University of Idaho

**AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
SERVICE**

**STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 – 2026 (FY2023 – 2027)**

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES
Agricultural Research and Extension Service
Strategic Plan
2022-2026(FY 2023 – 2027)

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. Amount of grant funding received per year.

FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	FY21 (2020-2021)	Benchmark
\$17.8M	\$17.4M	\$17.2M	\$36.1M	\$39M

Benchmark: Benchmark for FY25 of \$34.3 million in grant funding was reached. New benchmark represents an 8% increase¹.

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 technical publications generated/revised.

FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	FY21 (2020-2021)	Benchmark
133	147	157	176	240

Benchmark: Increase the number of technical publications to 240 by 2026².

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.

FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	FY21 (2020-2021)	Benchmark
405,739	425,128	440,793	220,402	430,000

Benchmark: Increase the number of individuals/families benefiting from Outreach Programs to 430,000 by 2026³.

II. Number of Youth Participating in 4-H

FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	FY21 (2020-2021)	Benchmark
70,122	72,688	73,478	51,846	75,000

Benchmark: 75,000 participants in 4-H⁴

¹ The goal of \$135 million in research expenditures for AERS by 2025 was reached. Therefore, the goal to be reached in 2026 was extended another 8%.

² 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.

³ To attain the University of Idaho Extension goal of 430,000 by 2026, AERS will need to increase the direct teaching contacts by an average of 6% over the contacts for the past year.

⁴ To attain the goal of 75,000 youth participating in 4-H by 2026, AERS will need to increase by 9% annually.

III. Educational and Research Web Traffic and Views of U of I Extension

FY18 (2017-2018)	FY19 (2018-2019)	FY20 (2019-2020)	FY21 (2020-2021)	Benchmark
562,769	707,267	832,352	840,362	1,000,000

Benchmark: 1,000,000 views of U of I Extension on-line materials⁵

Key External Factors

- COVID-19 impacted engagement significantly in FY21.
- 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 1,000,000 on-line views by 2026, AERS will need to increase by 4% annually.