

# Animal and Veterinary Science Department

## August 11, 2005

### Context Statement:

**The role and mission of the Animal & Veterinary Science (AVS) Department is to conduct focused, comprehensive, and integrated research-extension-teaching programs which specifically and directly support animal agriculture.**

*Animal agriculture* encompasses those activities essential for efficient production, processing, and marketing of high-quality and safe livestock, dairy, and fish products for human consumption and use. The scope of AVS involvement includes support for animal agriculture activities from conception to consumption.

The AVS Department is headquartered in the Agriculture Sciences Building on the Moscow, Idaho campus. The Department's human resource is a combination of faculty and staff from previously existing non-combined Departments of Veterinary Science and Animal Science. The merger occurred in 1990.

Currently, the Departmental roster includes 24 faculty, 10 support scientists, 10 office support personnel, 7 animal unit personnel, and 5 farming operations personnel.

Thirteen faculty, 4 support scientists, 3 office support personnel, 3 farming operations personnel, and 4 animal unit personnel are located on the Moscow campus. The remaining 15 faculty, 5 support scientists, and 4 office support personnel are at out-state sites.

State-wide locations include the Southwestern Caldwell R&E Center near Boise, Caine Veterinary Teaching Center (CVTC) in Caldwell, Twin Falls Extension Center on the College of Southern Idaho campus, Idaho Falls Extension Center at the University Center complex in Idaho Falls, Hagerman Fish Nutrition Experiment Station, and Nancy M. Cummings RE&E Center in Salmon.

Animal production units are maintained to support the research, teaching, and extension activities. Animal facilities include a Dairy Unit with 130 lactating cows plus replacements, a Beef Unit with 50 pair purebred Charlois, plus replacements, the Hot Springs Ranch at the Nancy M. Cummings RE&E Center with 250 commercial Angus cross cow-calf pairs, and a Sheep Unit being restocked with 250 purebred breeding-age ewes, plus replacements. In addition, there are animal facilities at the Northwest Equine Reproduction Laboratory and Monson Nutrition Barn. The facilities include a heavily-used multi-purpose Livestock Pavilion, a Meats Laboratory, an AVS Research Barn and an intensive fish-rearing facility providing additional support. A full-service Farm Operations Center and Feed Mill round out the facility support strengths.

The Departmental faculty is trained in the Animal and Veterinary Science academic disciplines of Nutrition, Reproductive Physiology, Lactation, Animal Breeding, Growth and Development, Meat & Milk Quality and Consistency, and Animal Health. Through the efforts of these faculties, the Department conducts Research, Extension, and Teaching programs that address the needs of beef, dairy, and sheep producers, horse owners, wildlife interests, and the aquaculture

industry.

The Department has defined "Program Areas" to help focus its activities and to package those activities into integrated research and extension programs that will directly benefit the clientele groups that we serve. AVS program areas include: **(1) Dairy Production (*dairy nutrition, dairy lactation/ reproduction, dairy management/profitability/ sustainability*)**, **(2) Beef Cattle Production ( *beef nutrition, beef reproduction, growth and development, beef management/ profitability/ sustainability*)**, **(3) Meat and Milk Quality, Safety, and Consistency**, **(4) Animal Health**, **(5) Equine Reproduction**, **(6) Sheep Production**, and **(7) Aquaculture**.

The major clientele groups for the AVS Department are the beef, dairy, and sheep producers, veterinary practitioners supporting the producers, producer associations, and the agribusinesses associated with them. In response to these clientele groups, the Department commits its human and fiscal resources to direct support of research, outreach/extension, and classroom instructional programming designed to meet present and emerging needs of these industries.

The Department is recognized regionally for its activities at the CVTC, especially, for its sheep expertise, the Production Medicine program, and its Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine 4th-year veterinary student teaching "blocks."

Another area of strong recognition for the Department is the Northwest Equine Reproduction Laboratory which has achieved national and international acclaim for its research efforts in the area of the equine ovum, early pregnancy signals, very early embryonic survival, and the birth of the first equine clone.

The AVS Department has an excellent reputation for its high quality student programs. The Departmental student body benefits from award-winning teachers and advisors, a strong faculty work ethic, and caring support staff. The AVS Department has the second highest enrollment in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. We are proud of our teaching and advising programs and of the fact that we are strongly student focused.

The undergraduate curriculum of the Department purposefully remains in a state of continuous evaluation, planning, and adjustment to fit evolving needs. This is part of the AVS Department's on-going strategic planning (and implementation) process. Our commitment to Idaho is to graduate enabled students who will be able to take advantage of employment opportunities and meet emerging animal agriculture needs.