

Executive Summary
External Review of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Education
Program
Michigan State University

This is a strong Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education program that can position itself to be even stronger. The talent among the AFNRE faculty and staff is fantastic. The AFNRE students are outstanding. The stakeholders value the direction of the program, the strides being made, and they have high expectations for what the program will accomplish in the near future. The College of Education and others see the program as valuable and essential to their work.

Recommendations

- Engage in a strategic visioning process led by an external facilitator or consultant.
- Organize an advisory committee of stakeholders from formal, non-formal and extension education, and community based leadership settings.
- Continue efforts to evaluate the existing curriculum and make appropriate modifications within the constraints of university, college and program requirements.
- Continue efforts to facilitate clear communication with prospective and existing students in the major.
- Work with the College of Education and Community Sustainability faculty and administration to use the 12 credit hours earned during the student teaching year to build the basis for a curriculum for a Master's degree in AFNRE.
- Work to get agriculture courses to count for science credit (genetics, population dynamics, soil science, etc.).
- All options should be explored for providing the most effective and useful program(s) for alternative teacher certification.
- AgBioResearch can modify research appointments for faculty already hired. There's an opportunity to invest in a research enterprise for several faculty related to their expertise in education.
- Faculty expertise should be leveraged to contribute to the career pathway and development of future and current Extension professionals.

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