

2021 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work Review

Status: Final
Date: 06/17/2020

Plan Overview

Recommend Approval?

Approve Return

Executive Summary: The summary follows suggested guidance.

Approve Return

FTE Estimates: Total FTEs are included for each appropriate institution of the plan.

Review Comments:

The Executive Summary provides a good overview of the current focus of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at the Ohio State University. It notes that CFAES is in the process of developing an updated strategic plan and refreshing its infrastructure. The Executive Summary describes Four Grand Challenges as follows: Sustaining Life; One Health; Rural-Urban Interface; and Leadership. It also describes two critical issues that relate to the four grand challenges. The critical issues are 1) water quality and 2) prescription drug abuse and opioid addiction. The Executive Summary includes estimates of FTEs for 2021 to 2025.

Merit Review

Recommend Approval?

Approve Return

At least one merit and scientific review process is described.

Review Comments:

The section on Merit/Peer Review Process describes the CFAES Research Competitive Grants Program. The FY 2020 objectives of the program will focus on new and applied research addressing critical issues affecting one or more commercial agricultural products important for Ohio and for which external funding is not readily available or adequate to support CFAES stakeholders. The section on Merit/Peer Review Process also describes an external review of the 4-H Youth Development program that was recently completed by OSU Extension.

Stakeholder Input

Recommend Approval?

Approve Return

Describes what action(s) will be taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages stakeholder participation.

Approve Return

Describes what method(s) will be used to identify groups and individuals from whom to collect input.

Approve Return

Describes what method(s) will be used for collecting stakeholder input.

Approve Return

Describes how input collected will be considered in program planning.

Review Comments:

The Stakeholder Input section notes that both formal and informal methods are used to seek stakeholder input and encourage stakeholder participation. Advisory committees are used to identify new stakeholders, to discuss current programs and to gather input for future directions and planning. Additionally, electronic messaging, social media, webinars, blogging and interactive group messaging systems are used, allowing more stakeholders to provide input. In 2018, OSU Extension did a county-based statewide needs assessment survey, which will be expanded on. The Farm Science Review (FSR) is Ohio's premiere agricultural event. CFAES uses the FSR to add to their clientele list, knowledge of needs, and feedback on impacts and outputs. CFAES uses surveys and panels to collect stakeholder input. They use public media to advertise events for the general public. OSUE routinely performs community needs and health assessments. Stakeholder input influences hiring decisions, shifts in priorities and resource allocations for both budgeting and strategic planning.

Critical Issues

Recommend Approval?

Approve Return

Critical Issues are appropriate for the state, include relevant Science Emphasis Area associations, and have an appropriate term (i.e., Short-Term, Intermediate, or Long-Term).

Review Comments:

The Critical Issues section focuses on: 1) Health and Wellness, 2) Economic Vitality, 3) Food Security and Production, 4) Environmental Quality and Sustainability and 5) Thriving Across the Lifespan.

These are each important issues that are appropriate for Ohio. They include relevant Science Emphasis Areas for each Critical Issue. The each have a long-term focus, which seems appropriate.

General Recommendations

Recommend Approval?

Review Comments:

The Ohio State University's Plan of Work is concise and contains all of the required information. It provides an appropriate picture of CFAES' merit review processes and CFAES' methods to identify, collect and use stakeholder input. The Plan of Work describes Critical Issues that seem appropriate for Ohio.