Kansas State University Department of Agronomy Report for NCAC-1

1-7-20

1. Administrative changes
    a. As in 2018, 2019 was a time of transitions
    b. Ernie Minton is now permanent Dean of the College of Agriculture after previously serving as Interim Dean and before that he was Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs
    c. Marty Draper is now permanent Associate Dean in Dr. Minton's position
        i. Previously he was Interim Associate Dean and before that he was Head of the Department of Plant Pathology
    d. Agronomy department head
        i. I have been Interim Head since June 2018
        ii. I have been at K-State for 36 years and was previously Assistant Head for Teaching for 18 years
        iii. National search is underway and screening of candidates will start soon
        iv. Plan to conduct interviews in February - March
        v. Should have someone on board by August
        vi. I will not be an candidate and will retire once the new department head is on board
    e. 5 of the 8 departments in the College of Agriculture have interim department heads
2. Agronomy faculty positions
    a. Assistant Professor in Precision Agriculture (60% Research, 40% Teaching)
        i. Search is in process
        ii. One interview has been conducted without success
        iii. Will be screening for additional candidates this week
    b. Two Regional Extension Agronomist/Assistant Professor positions (80% Extension, 20% Research) that are not budgeted in Agronomy but with Agronomy as the tenure home
        i. Southeast Kansas in Parsons
            1. An offer has been made and the position is under negotiation
        ii. Southwest Kansas in Garden City
            1. Conducted interviews that were not successful with plans to reopen the position this spring
    c. National search is underway for an Agronomist-In-Charge at North Central Experiment Field (M.S. level)
    d. Just hired an Assistant Professor in an Extension Weed Management position (80% Extension, 20% Research)
3. Agronomy curriculum changes mandated by the Kansas Board of Regents – change from 127 to 120 credit hour requirements went into effect Fall 2019
    a. Expect that many undergraduates will complete their degree requirements in 3.5 years

4. $1.6 million Agronomy Education Center has been completed on the Agronomy North Farm
5. Job market continues to be strong with 100% job placement
6. Highest known starting salary for a May 2019 Agronomy graduate was $65,000
7. Two major initiatives are ongoing at K-State
    a. New strategic budget model (replaces current incremental budget model)
        i. Based on student credit hours, student retention, and number of majors
        ii. FY20 is the first year of implementation of the model
        iii. So far the model only goes to the college level, and deans have the authority to decide how to make allocations at the department level
        iv. Includes a refresh of the K-State 2025 Strategic Action Plan implemented in 2015
    b. Strategic enrollment management plan
        i. Goal is to stabilize and increase enrollment at K-State
        ii. Hired a new Vice Provost for Enrollment Management