



Agriculture-Academic Programs

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Jermelina Tupas
USDA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
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Washington DC 2025-2215

Dear Dr. Tupas,

In my capacity as chair of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Agriculture Assembly's Academic Programs Section (APS) I write to you in support of the Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS). FAEIS provides services to the agricultural and natural resources academic community that are simply not available through any other source, including the Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For example, because FAEIS primarily uses data directly reported by colleges or departments of agriculture, it is able to break fields such as animal science into more specific areas than what one may find in IPEDS. Furthermore, because the data comes directly from the academic administrators in charge of these programs and not from an institution's institutional research (IR) office, there is more consistency in the data grouped under a particular heading than what the IR office may provide. This has been demonstrated when comparisons are made against individual institution's IR data. The reason for this is that the program individuals closer to the actual programs are able to provide a better assessment of how to group their majors than people across campus who may not have a feel for the programs involved.

FAEIS provides other advantages as well. For example, FAEIS allows the opportunity for administrators at institutions to easily track enrollment trends in disciplines, and it also allows them to see how they stack up against their peers and to identify areas where they may be ahead or behind. Furthermore, FAEIS is up-to-date on its information versus IPEDS data that may be two years old. FAEIS is also quite easy to use, far easier than IPEDS. Finally, the FAEIS team has been tireless in adding to the information they collect each year and are in the midst of completing a review and correction of any incorrect information in the database. As they have increased the type of data available through FAEIS, the value of the database continues to grow. For example, FAEIS data was heavily employed in the researching and preparation of the latest USDA employment report posted on Purdue's web site, *Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in Food, Renewable Energy, and the Environment, United States, 2010-2015.*

APS strongly endorses FAEIS and encourages USDA to continue its funding.

Sincerely,

Don Boggs
Associate Dean, Academic Programs
Kansas State University