

FAEIS Update



FAEIS Accomplishments in Review

FAEIS has been in existence for nearly 30 years, first, as a paper-based system beginning in 1983 at Texas A&M, and currently as a web-based system upon Virginia Tech's award of the FAEIS contract in 2002. The primary function of FAEIS is to compile nationwide higher education data for agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer/human sciences, veterinary medicine and other related disciplines. These data include undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, degrees awarded at all degree levels, placement and faculty numbers and salaries by rank and discipline. FAEIS evolved over time as additional needs arose by the funding agency, USDA-NIFA, and other stakeholders. NIFA added data quality assurance items. Over the past year, the FAEIS team has shifted their emphasis from simply data collection, to data collection, data verification, and validation.

Over the past year, FAEIS has collected data on student enrollment, degrees awarded, faculty counts and salaries, placement, and international programs. These data are collected from nearly 200 higher education institutions with departments and colleges focused on agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences/human sciences, veterinary medicine, and other related disciplines.

FAEIS data are used by staff from the USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, Dr. Katherine Woteki's

office, and Congressional offices to write legislation for inclusion in Congressional bills and program guidelines. Higher education administrators also use FAEIS data for recruiting and benchmarking students and faculty, as well as institutional planning, and regional and national comparisons. FAEIS data have been widely accessed through the public FAEIS web site (<http://faeis.usda.gov>) as indicated by the 85,389 page visits from 9,570 unique visitors to the web site in this reporting period alone.

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Data quality assurance measures continue to ensure that FAEIS data accurately reflect student and faculty information for higher education institutions and their departments and colleges within the FAEIS program areas. To that effort, more than 2,500 person hours have been devoted by four graduate research students to examine FAEIS data for the 2004 – 2010 reporting years for over 70 Land-Grant institutions. As of July 2011, data verification and participation in the FAEIS student surveys by Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture is at 97% for the years 2004-2009, with 100% expected completion for the 2010 student surveys.

Learn more about FAEIS accomplishments at http://www.faeis.ahnrit.vt.edu/reports/2011_CRIS_Report.pdf



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FAEIS Help Desk available at 540.231.4941 or

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FAEIS is housed at Virginia Tech and funding has been provided by USDA-NIFA.

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