

CSS Update
May 12, 2013

The following are highlights of activities over the past months in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) and the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS.

1. **College of Ag Sciences** – Dan Arp, CAS Dean, is focusing time and energy on the 2013 Oregon legislative session. The state budget forecast is due out May 16. Shortly thereafter we should know if the Statewide Public Service Programs will receive a 5.7% increase (\$5.7M) over the Governor's budget or the needed 7% (\$7M) to bring budgets to an equivalent level to the current year budget with rollups for retirement and health insurance. A 7% would place the statewide programs on a similar treatment basis with the teaching sector of OSU and other state universities. The College's supporters have been active in seeking this additional support and there seem reasonable odds that additional funding will be provided unless there are significant changes in the state budget forecast or other anticipated funding sources fail to materialize. Our thanks to our statewide program supporters.
2. **OSU Extension** – Given current knowledge of 2012-13 funding, Mike Borman/Bill Braunworth/Russ Karow (the Interim College of Ag Extension leadership team) are working on both short-term and long-term staffing plans for agricultural extension. If state funding for 2013-15 is increased to the +7% level, the Ag extension budget would have just over \$100K in recurring funds to use to fill critical, vacant positions. Critical positions are those where we are still interested in doing work in an area and have no backup support. Backup at this point includes people in part-time, post-retirement positions, in grant funded positions that can provide some general support, or people elsewhere in the state or region who can serve as a resource. A livestock position in Malheur County (a search is currently underway) and horticulture position in the Willamette Valley are currently highest priorities. Both of these positions are those where a current faculty member has left or is leaving and there is no backup for a critical program need.
3. **Current Department Budgets** – Departments and branch experiment stations are operating under a @19% budget reduction in the current fiscal year. Reserve funds are being used by many units to cover activities in 2012-13 but in most cases will be exhausted by the end of this fiscal year. Unit leaders have been told to begin planning 2013-14 budgets at an existing funding level. If the +7% level is obtained in the state budget, then some additional funding flexibility may be provided to departments and branch stations.
4. **University Teaching Budgets** – Student enrollments are high (@26,400) and out-of-state and international student enrollments increasing. Given these factors and the fact that tuition is now the majority of university teaching budgets versus state funds, the teaching side of the OSU house is in reasonable financial condition; however, additional teachers need to be found to cover increased class loads and student support needs. Teaching is presently the smallest part of activity in the College of Ag versus Experiment Station research and Extension activities, hence increases in teaching support are helpful but cannot offset budget reductions in these other areas. Some extension faculty have had portions of their positions bought out to do classroom teaching. College of Ag research and extension faculty will need to figure out how to meet position needs with one foot more consistently on campus or perhaps through teaching classes electronically from wherever they may be. Campus-based extension specialists are all picking up some level of teaching responsibility.
5. **Federal budgets** – As you likely know, a continuing resolution has been passed to carry the federal fiscal year 2012 budget into FFY 13 with sequestration cuts of about 5% implemented. Federal agencies have been given some discretion in dealing with this cut and so the specific effect on individual programs will not be known until each agency announces their budget. It is anticipated that all budgets will be reduced by at least a couple of percent. New budget proposals for FFY14 are all over the board in terms of base support for extension and ag experiment station but in most cases further reductions are proposed.
6. **Grant Funding** – Grants are the other means through which faculty will obtain funds for program operation and in the case of most recent hires, a portion of the person's salary. OSU grant funding totaled \$207M in 2011-12 – a third straight year of funding above \$200M. The College of Agricultural Sciences grant total in 2011-12 was \$54M, over one-fourth of OSU's total. Despite reductions in federal grant funding dollars overall, OSU grant application success in 2012-13 is running ahead of last year's levels. This is good news but while grants can provide valuable operational support, they also dictate the direction of research or extension activity that the faculty member must do. This can

sometimes reduce the potential for faculty to take on new or emergency need activities for which they do not have operational support.

7. **Cereal Variety Royalties** – conversations have been underway with representatives of the Oregon wheat industry about licensing and charging royalties on all future OSU wheat releases. The decision was made at the May 7 Oregon Wheat Commission meeting to not support royalties on the pending Bobtail and Rosalyn releases – these would go out as standard, open releases – but to continue discussion with OSU about future releases. Any variety that is developed using proprietary intellectual property obtained from someone else will continue to be licensed similar to the current ORCF and Norwest varieties.
8. **OSU Foundation** - OSU is setting records for funds contributed to the OSU Foundation to establish endowments and other funding mechanisms that are outside state and federal pools. Endowments will provide some level of on-going stability to those programs that have them. The Oregon Potato Commission has begun one endowment for potato research support in the Hermiston area and is pondering another that may have a Klamath Basin focus. Other groups are pondering establishment of endowments. Intent letters have been signed by a number of our elder statesmen and women in the ag community to establish estate endowments that will directly benefit activities in CSS and the College. More information about endowments can be provided to anyone interested.
9. **Positions**
 - a. Dr. Steve Petrie has resigned as Director of the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center to take a national agronomic research leader position with Yara US, the world's largest fertilizer company. Steve had come to OSU from a similar industry position. Dr. Stephen Machado has been appointed as the interim Director at CBARC. A position description for a new director will be developed and advertised in early summer.
 - b. The special tax district for support of Malheur County Extension and research activities was passed. A second Malheur County crops position has been advertised and interviews are anticipated in June. This person will focus on crops other than onion and potato as well as some water quality issues. The position will be a fixed-term position given the tax district funding base. Dr. Stewart Reitz is the new potato and onion faculty member in the Treasure Valley.
 - c. Dr. Paul Marquardt is on board in Linn, Benton, and Polk counties as the new field cropping systems extension faculty member. Paul is housed in Linn County. Some cross-over work into Lane County will be done. Paul will share Polk county responsibilities with Nicole Anderson, North Willamette Valley Field Crops faculty member.
 - d. Tom Silberstein has accepted a position as Senior FRA at the Klamath Experiment Station. He will work primarily with Dr. Rich Roseberg on cereals, forages and alternate crops but will also have general research support responsibilities for the Station. The contract between OSU and the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District under which Tom had worked will not be renewed. While Tom's work was seen as positive, SWCD Board members had mixed feelings about supporting these types of activities and without strong support of the Board, it was deemed in OSU's best interest to step out of the relationship for now. The CAS extension team (Borman, Braunworth and Karow) will be meeting in the near future with extension faculty who have program activities in the Valley to determine options for cropping systems extension in the mid-Valley. Ideas generated from these discussions will be shared with clientele.

For more information about happenings in the College of Agricultural Sciences you are invited to subscribe to the College's news magazine "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" (<http://oregonprogress.oregonstate.edu/index.php>) and to the College's monthly newsletter "The Source" (<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/news/newsletters>). The latter also provides links to the newsletters of a number of departments in the College including CSS.

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