

**Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences
2006/2007 Program Priorities**

The College of Agricultural Sciences views planning as an ongoing process to guide the allocation of resources for teaching, research, and extension. The plan is formally updated every three years and in the interim the college leadership team reviews implementation progress on a regular basis. During the most recent review of progress, five issues of singular importance were identified as priorities on which to focus resources over the next year: renewable energy; pest prediction and response; environmental issues; food safety and quality; and job, economic and community development. These program priorities are consistent with the College's strategic vision and reflect an effort to adapt to the changing needs of our constituencies.

Renewable Energy

- ❖ Support the Biomass Energy Center, charged with addressing the complete value chain of biomass energy systems within a bio-based economy.
- ❖ Improve production of biomass feedstocks.
- ❖ Integrate biomass production into sustainability agrosystems.
- ❖ Engineer solutions for conversion of biomass into energy.
- ❖ Identify new uses for materials following energy extraction.
- ❖ Transfer technology to public and private sectors to facilitate job creation, energy independence, and agricultural profitability.
- ❖ Demonstrate and research biodiesel and biohydraulic technologies.

Pest Prediction and Response

- ❖ Address emerging issues in crop, livestock, and forest production and pest protection.
- ❖ Continue to build the science-based foundation for national soybean rust prediction.
- ❖ Broaden prediction capacity to anticipate and isolate outbreaks.
- ❖ Develop and disseminate new response and recovery options.

Environmental Issues

- ❖ Create a policy center for Agriculture and Environment Science to address the interplay of agricultural production and processing with environmental quality.
- ❖ Harmonize agricultural production with environmental goals through sustainable crop, livestock and forest production practices.
- ❖ Facilitate science-based policy by connecting with local, regional, state, and federal interests.
- ❖ Identify critical new research to meet local needs.

Food Safety and Quality

- ❖ Food safety research, training, and certification for consumers, retailers, processors, and producers.
- ❖ Research food quality and consumer preferences.

Job, Economic and Community Development

- ❖ Assist communities with needs assessment, community planning, community decision making, e-government initiatives, and emergency preparedness.
- ❖ Research and assistance regarding individual and community land-use decisions.
- ❖ Assessment and assistance with agribusiness profitability, agricultural business management and planning, entrepreneurship, work force development and value-added development.
- ❖ Expand local leadership, youth, and family training and programming.
- ❖ Reach out to new audiences at the rural-urban interface.