

Ag Advisory Meeting Agenda

March 17, 2025

Schedule: 8:30-10:00am - Meet in Room 705 (Light Breakfast and Coffee Served)

Zoom Link: <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/99647316611>

- 1) Welcome/Introductions
 - a. ADawn Nelson – Instructor @ Northland
 - b. Nicky Overgaard – Instructor @ Northland
 - c. Kayla Mistic – MN Farm Bureau
 - d. Don Fischer – Interim Associate Dean @ Northland
 - e. Katie Shaw – Ag Education/FFA In
 - f. Grant Nelson - Pennington County Ag Services & Waste Management
 - g. Krista Wuebkers – Marketing with Leedstone
 - h. James Widner – FBM Instructor @ Northland
 - i. Carolyn Carlson – Elanco Sales in MN & ND
 - j. Destiney – Student @ Northland
 - k. Kasey Hovdenes – Student @ Northland
 - l. Samantha Lahman – NDSU Extension 4-H Animal Science Specialist
 - m. Aaron Yaggie – Farmer & Business Manager
 - n. Lydia Nelson – Northland Ag Alumni working towards vet school
 - o. Matt Hansen – Dairy & Crop Farmer (Robotics Systems)
- 2) Agenda Additions/Corrections
 - a. Program pamphlet
 - i. Students start with a general ag certificate then can proceed to a two year degree and a potential four year program.
- 3) College Update
 - a. Administration Changes
 - i. Next week interviews start for the search for a new President.
 - ii. There have been many changes to Dean positions, with three turning over in the last year.
 - b. Workforce Scholarship \$2,500 per year- Freshman from MN
 - i. These has been a significant increase in companion animal course focus due to demand. There has been great support from the community around this program area.
 - c. Nicky Overgaard – Teaching Intro to Ag, Agribusiness and Records, Food Products and OCHS courses
 - i. Previously worked at the University of Minnesota, Crookston and is teaching part-time while continuing to work in the ag industry with her family.



- ii. She sees incredible value in the monetary value of tuition, hands-on experience, and variety of areas of study.
 - iii. She values the partnerships that they have found throughout the Red River Valley.
- 4) Curriculum Review
- a. Current Curriculum – see attachment
 - i. Math is currently a requirement. Is this a hinderance to those wanting to take the program? Should there be other options?
 - Discussion points included: the need for math within the ag industry, questions regarding the number of students that will need the credits based on 2 and 4 year programs, the transferability of the options currently offered, advising pathways for those planning to go on to further education, and allowing for substitutions of other math courses.
 - b. Curriculum Idea's AGRG 1110 Intro to Animal Science
 - a. Breakout the Lab component 1 credit
 - b. 3 credits could be done CHS/OCHS – Could offer distance section
 - c. If they come here 1 credit Lab
 - d. Barriers?
 - Discussion points included the difficulty of access for all students, ability for students to get hands-on experience, potential for self-study (internship type), potential for students to take a 1000 animal science class that would be used for marketing and interest.
 - Samantha moved, Kayla seconded the option for the program to explore leaving the current course as is and pursuing a new course that would be a companion as opposed to a substitution. Motion was passed.
 - c. Meat Cutting Grant
 - a. Add to Food Processing Class?
 - Discussion included species that the class would cover, community courses, general meat awareness, could a 1 credit class be offered as an elective or could it also be included by moving 1 credit from the 4 credit beef class.
 - Samantha moved, Matthew seconded for the program to pursue incorporating meats curriculum into the program and the approval to apply for existing grant funding.
 - d. Needs in the Community – 1 year Diploma?
 - i. Reproduction Certification
 - Discussion included what is currently being offered and the smaller demand in comparison to agronomy.
 - ii. Agronomy



Plant ID, weed ID, safety, pesticide, soil health, disease & fungus management, basics in sales.

- James moved, Lydia seconded a motion to explore a 1 year agronomy program.

e. What is Northland AFNR missing?

- Focus on hands-on experiences that students will have at Northland.
- Continuing with career fairs and events, but social media would be very welcomed.
- Alumni spotlights on social media.
- Use current students for ambassadors to advertise for the program.
- Work with Northland to see if there can be targeted recruitment for students taking Northland classes in the high school to bring them to campus to see the facility in person.

5) Future:

- What do you see are needs of your industry or your business in the future?
Example: Should our community/area be looking at adding an Agronomy program?
- How do we get non-agriculture students into agriculture?
- Marketing Idea's

6) Idea's for additional community/industry (all of ag) members is our area, state, Midwest or globally??

7) Other?

- Lydia – How much ADawn and Nicky are doing to further the program at Northland
- Krista – Loved being a part of this group and it sparked a lot of ideas
- Samantha – Hearing what directions students are being guided towards outside of the typical careers that we are used to; companion animals, meat science, agronomy.
- James – Seeing agronomy being moved forward.
- Nicky – ADawn is doing a great job as a one woman show. They can find a ways for students to help with marketing.
- Carolyn – Going for grant money for meat science.
- Matthew – How dedicated that ADawn is. Don't be afraid to keep an open mind about topics and how you bring in new kids.
- Destiney – Its nice to see how everything comes together for future courses.

8) Next Meeting – Next Fall 2025

9)Adjournment

