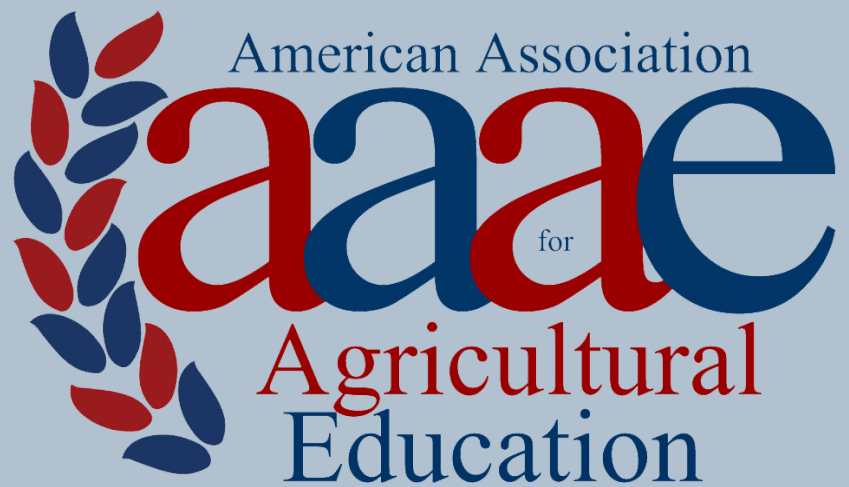


RESEARCH VALUES

of the
American
Association
for Agricultural
Education

**AA
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RECOMMENDED CITATION



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SPECIAL THANKS **TO THE AAAE RESEARCH VALUES COMMITTEE**

CHAIR:

Dr. John Rayfield, Texas Tech University

ADVISORS:

Dr. Craig Edwards, Oklahoma State University

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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The American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE) is a professional society for university faculty and graduate students interested in communications, education, engagement, and leadership development in the context of agriculture, food, and natural resources.

As social scientists working in a context of agriculture, food, and natural resources (AFNR), AAAE members are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between the public and scientists working to solve current and emerging challenges related to sustainably feeding an ever-growing population, including the effects of climate change on social, economic, and environmental conditions.

VISION FOR THE AAAE RESEARCH VALUES



The vision for the AAAE Research Values document is to serve as a guide for social science researchers by which complex problems in agriculture, food, and natural resource (AFNR) systems can be solved through cross-disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary efforts.

Members of AAAE and other scholars affiliated with AAAE develop social science solutions to address critical issues in AFNR systems.

The AAAE Research Values document is a strategic outline to guide social science research efforts in the context of AFNR systems and to provide guidance for cross disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary efforts.

The intent of this document is to highlight critical issues in AFNR and to describe the intersection between AAAE researchers, funding agencies, AFNR stakeholders, and collaborators interested in advancing AFNR initiatives.

CRITICAL ISSUES IN AFNR SYSTEMS



AFNR systems are complex and require marshaling the expertise of multidisciplinary teams and diverse viewpoints. It is critical to understand the human dimension of AFNR systems to identify, implement, and evaluate solutions. The following list provides context for social scientists, life sciences experts, and multidisciplinary teams to identify and investigate AFNR issues.

Appendix A provides a listing of potential funding sources that emphasize or prioritize these critical issues for funding within the AFNR systems.

AAAAE RESEARCH VALUES



Advancing Public Knowledge of AFNR Systems



Enhancing Environmental Health



Ensuring Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging



Examining Social Dynamics in Human and Life Sciences



Fostering Healthy Living



Implementing Programming for International Development Initiatives



Increasing Prosperity Through Innovation in AFNR Systems



Nurturing Positive Youth Development Through AFNR Systems



Promoting Personal Responsibility and Safety in AFNR Systems

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



ADVANCING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF AFNR SYSTEMS

DESCRIPTION

Providing instruction to help individuals make informed decisions as AFNR consumers and to prepare them for skilled agricultural work is at the foundation of our profession. Education efforts (informal, non-formal, formal), communication strategies, and engagement to public consumers, industry professionals and producers informing human knowledge of AFNR issues and practices to our stakeholders is critical to advancing AFNR systems.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Determining communication modes and strategies for disseminating AFNR knowledge
- Examining curriculum design, development, delivery, and evaluation in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary programs
- Examining leadership and organizational development in AFNR systems
- Measuring the impacts on producer and/or community outreach

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DESCRIPTION

The relationship between human influences and the places they live and work. These factors impact the resources we have at our disposal, as well as the health of people, animals (both wild and domestic), and plants.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Examining public awareness related to natural resource usage
- Ensuring responsible use and conservation of natural resources (including water, soil, and air)
- Investigating biocomplexity in AFNR systems
- Examining climate variability and its impact on agriculture and agricultural related activities

AAA VALUE RESEARCH RELATED TO:



ENSURING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING

DESCRIPTION

A diverse and sustainable workforce is critical to the AFNR industry. Expanding diversity and ensuring access is achievable by providing education and evaluation efforts in AFNR systems and programs.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Evaluating equity, accessibility, inclusion, and belonging in educational programming
- Assessing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in AFNR programs, including recruitment and retention efforts
- Examining barriers, including structural and policy barriers to inclusivity (cultural, language, and socio-economic)

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



EXAMINING SOCIAL DYNAMICS IN HUMAN AND LIFE SCIENCES

DESCRIPTION

Interactions between people and communities as they navigate relationships in AFNR and life sciences areas. The human dimension of AFNR systems is a critical component of vibrant communities — rural, semiurban, and urban.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Describing and defining social dynamics including programming related to community vitality
- Communicating AFNR initiatives to relevant stakeholders
- Developing outreach and leadership initiatives which enhance well-being of communities

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



FOSTERING HEALTHY LIVING

DESCRIPTION

Achieving optimal health includes acknowledgement of the interconnection among people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. Examining the human connection to AFNR systems encourages personal and environmental responsibility.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Integrating and applying One Health initiatives
- Investigating mental and behavioral issues (violence prevention, mental health, and substance use)
- Examining human nutrition issues (obesity, food safety, and nutrition education)

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMMING FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

DESCRIPTION

Formal, non-formal, and informal programming is a major platform for improving practices in AFNR fields and enhancing human, social, and cultural capital. A priority is determining effective methods for implementing programming across the globe.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Determining effective delivery and evaluation strategies for global AFNR programming
- Examining social dynamics within AFNR systems and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- Developing human capital across cultural and geographic boundaries
- Examining policy analyses and its implication on achieving SDG goals

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



INCREASING PROSPERITY THROUGH INNOVATION IN AFNR SYSTEMS

DESCRIPTION

Determining the human interaction between resources and innovations that enhance economic growth, security, and competition within AFNR systems. Using innovative practices will ensure enduring stability for communities and global economies.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Diffusing innovations within emerging technologies applied to AFNR systems
- Developing a workforce with relevant skills for AFNR advancement
- Creating STEM content connections within AFNR
- Examining digital science and its applicability and use in AFNR initiatives

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



NURTURING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AFNR SYSTEMS

DESCRIPTION

AFNR systems have been used as a means for fostering positive experiences for youth. Research in this area can determine the impact of these experiences on youth and AFNR systems.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Mentoring, including socio-emotional learning and development of youth through AFNR programming
- Examining career and leadership development for youth in AFNR
- Assessing youth decision-making and healthy lifestyles (career readiness, AFNR safety, and youth mental and physical health initiatives)

AAAAE VALUES RESEARCH RELATED TO:



PROMOTING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SAFETY IN AFNR SYSTEMS

DESCRIPTION

For the advancement of AFNR to meet its full potential, it must be done sustainably and with consideration for safety. Research in AFNR needs to be conducted to examine the human dimension of sustainability and safety.

EXAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

- Exploring and addressing the occupational safety and health needs of people working in AFNR systems (AgrAbility)
- Developing programs focused on injury prevention, safety, and accessibility
- Increasing implementation of behavioral change theories in AFNR practices to assess impact

APPENDIX A: LINKING RESEARCH VALUES WITH FUNDING SOURCES*

Critical Issues/ Funding Organizations	USDA/ NIFA	NSF	NIH/ CDC	NRCS/ EPA	USAID	DOE	Global Agencies
Advancing public knowledge of AFNR systems	X	X		X		X	X
Enhancing environmental health	X	X	X	X			X
Ensuring diversity and equal access	X	X				X	
Examining social dynamics in human life sciences	X		X				X
Fostering healthy living		X	X				X
Implementing programming for international agricultural initiatives	X		X		X		X
Increasing prosperity through innovation in AFNR systems	X	X			X		X
Nurturing positive youth development	X	X	X		X	X	X
Promoting sustainable and safe AFNR systems	X	X		X	X		X

APPENDIX A: LINKING RESEARCH VALUES WITH FUNDING SOURCES*

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)/National 4-H Council
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Departments of Education (DOE) at state and federal levels
- Global Agencies include the following:
 - Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank (WB), United Nations Educational, Scientific Children's Organization (UNESCO), United National Development Program (UNDP)

*NOTES

The placing of "X" in the columns in Appendix A is based on extensive review of each funding agency and their priorities for funding in AFNR systems. In addition, list of funded proposals provided in each of the agency websites were also reviewed. Finally, the collective experience of the committee members and their colleagues who have secured grants from these agencies were also considered in placing the "X" mark under each column.

