



Development of a 3-Day Animal Science Mini-Internship Program

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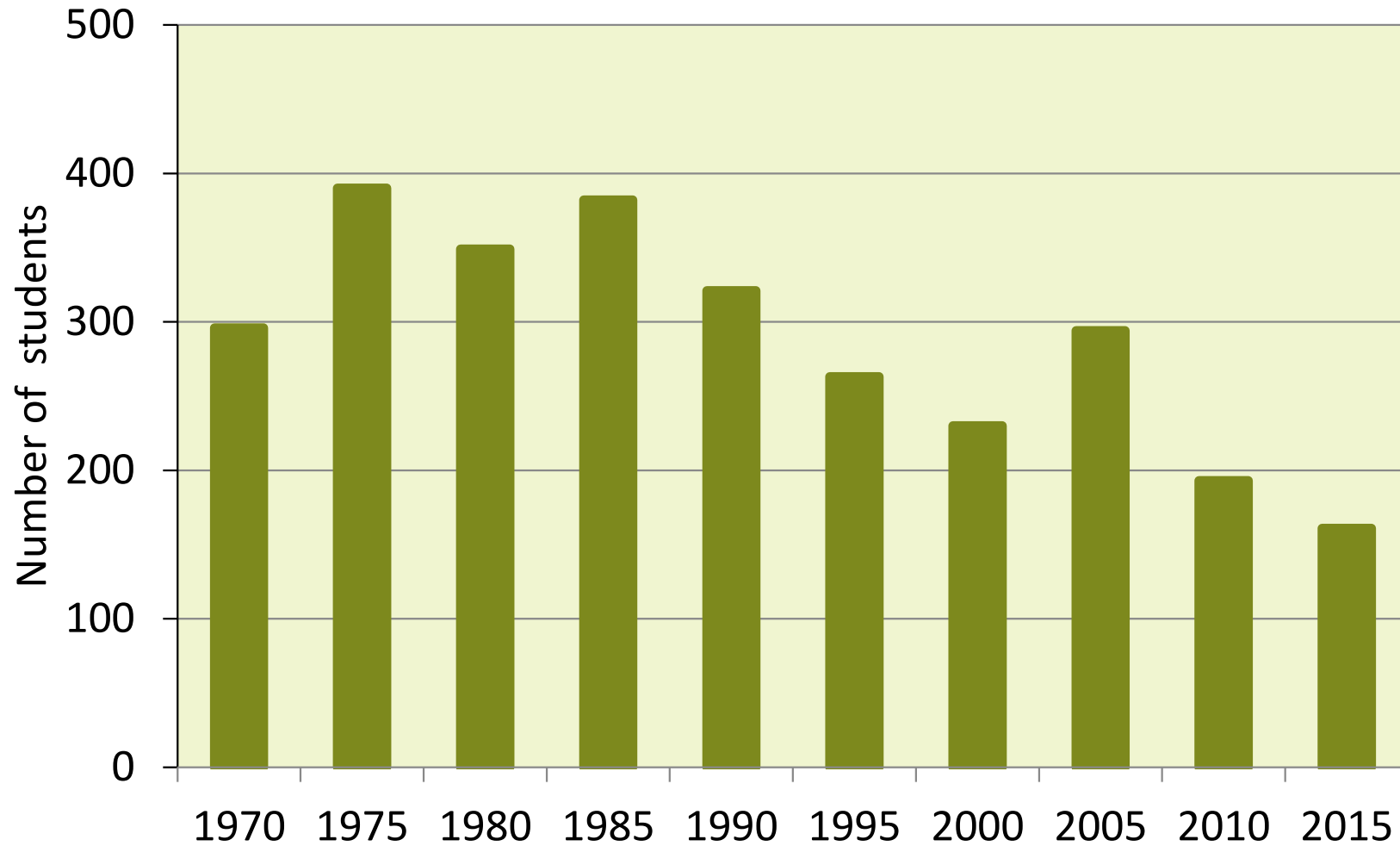
²Career Centre

University of Alberta

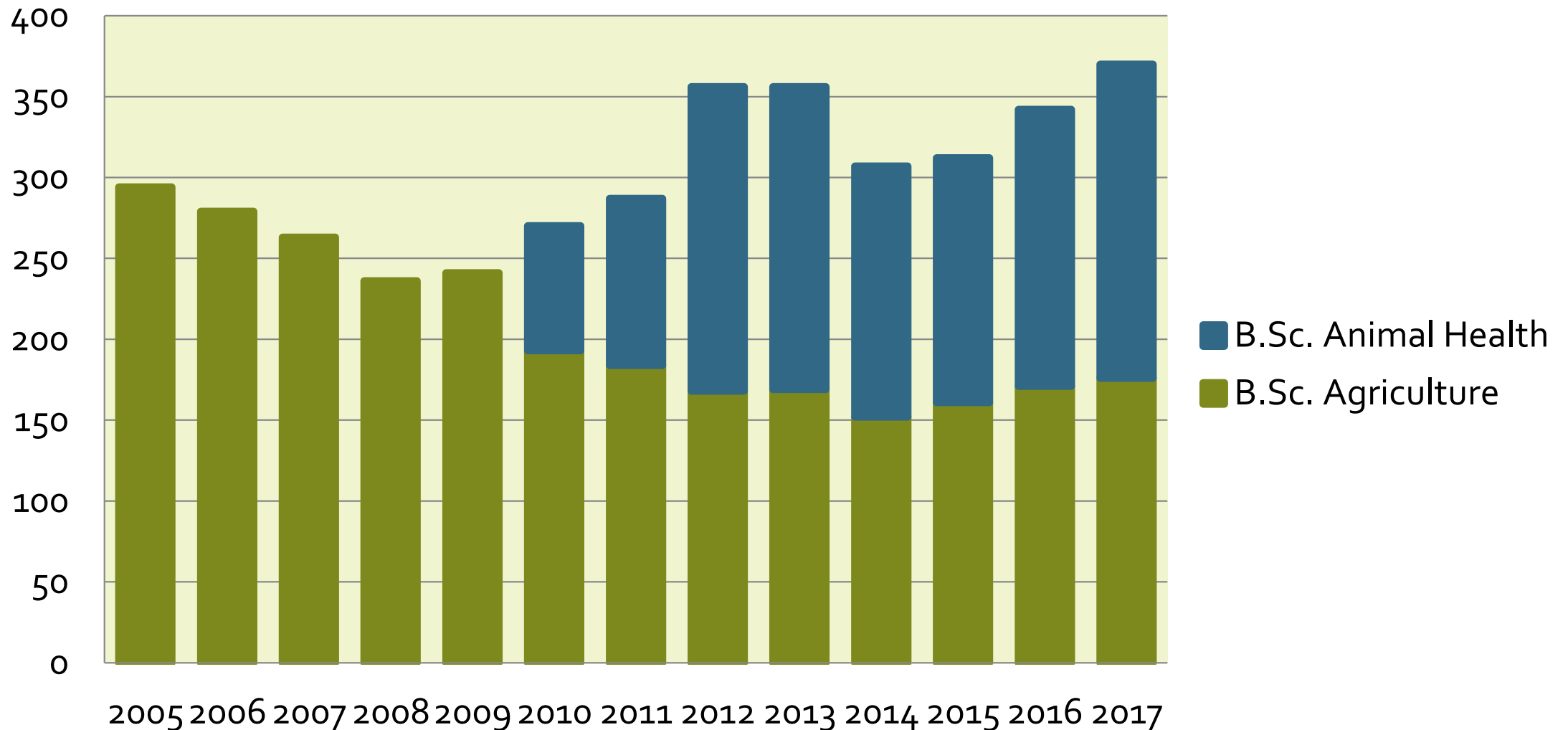
The Problem

- Fewer Albertans are living on farms
- The number of agriculture and animal health students is not increasing
- More agriculture students are urban than rural
- Few urban students have any farm animal contact experiences

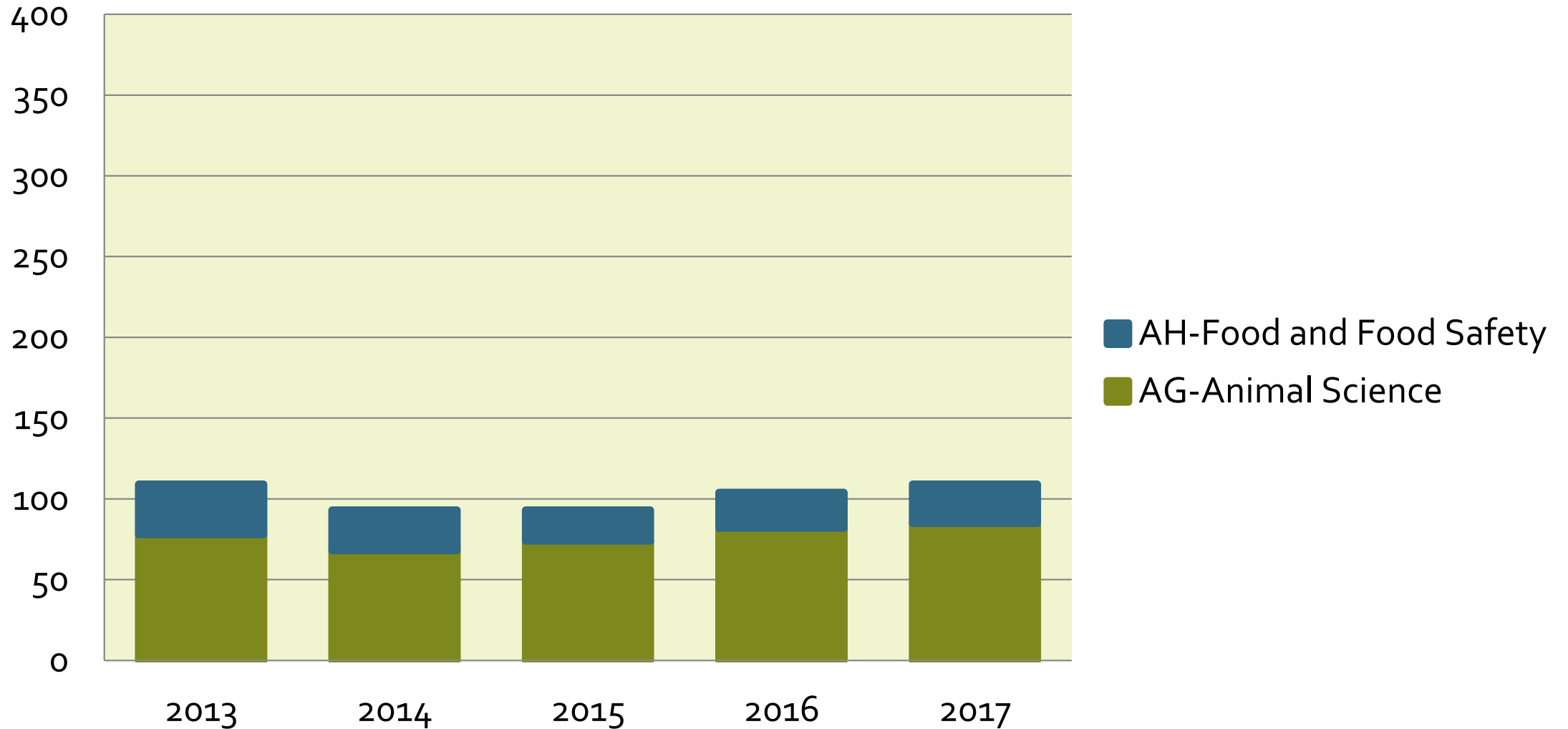
Enrolment in B.Sc. Agric. Program



Enrolment in B.Sc. Agric. and B.Sc Animal Health Programs



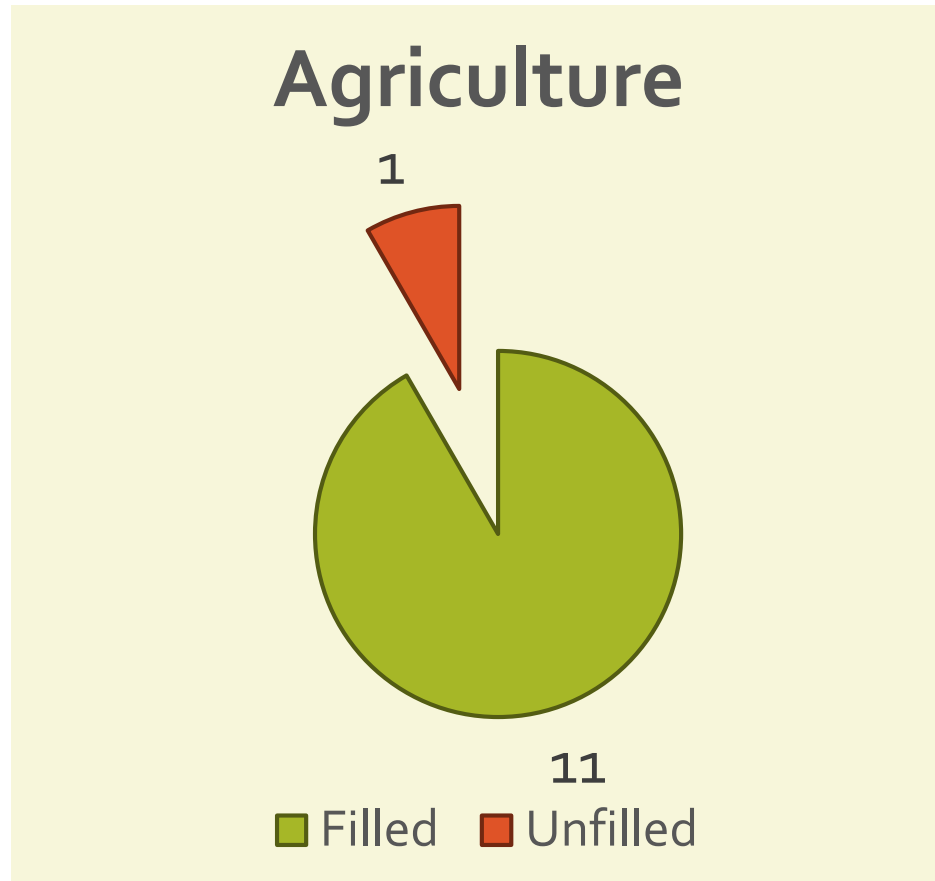
Farm Animal Student Enrolment in B.Sc. Agric. and B.Sc Animal Health Programs



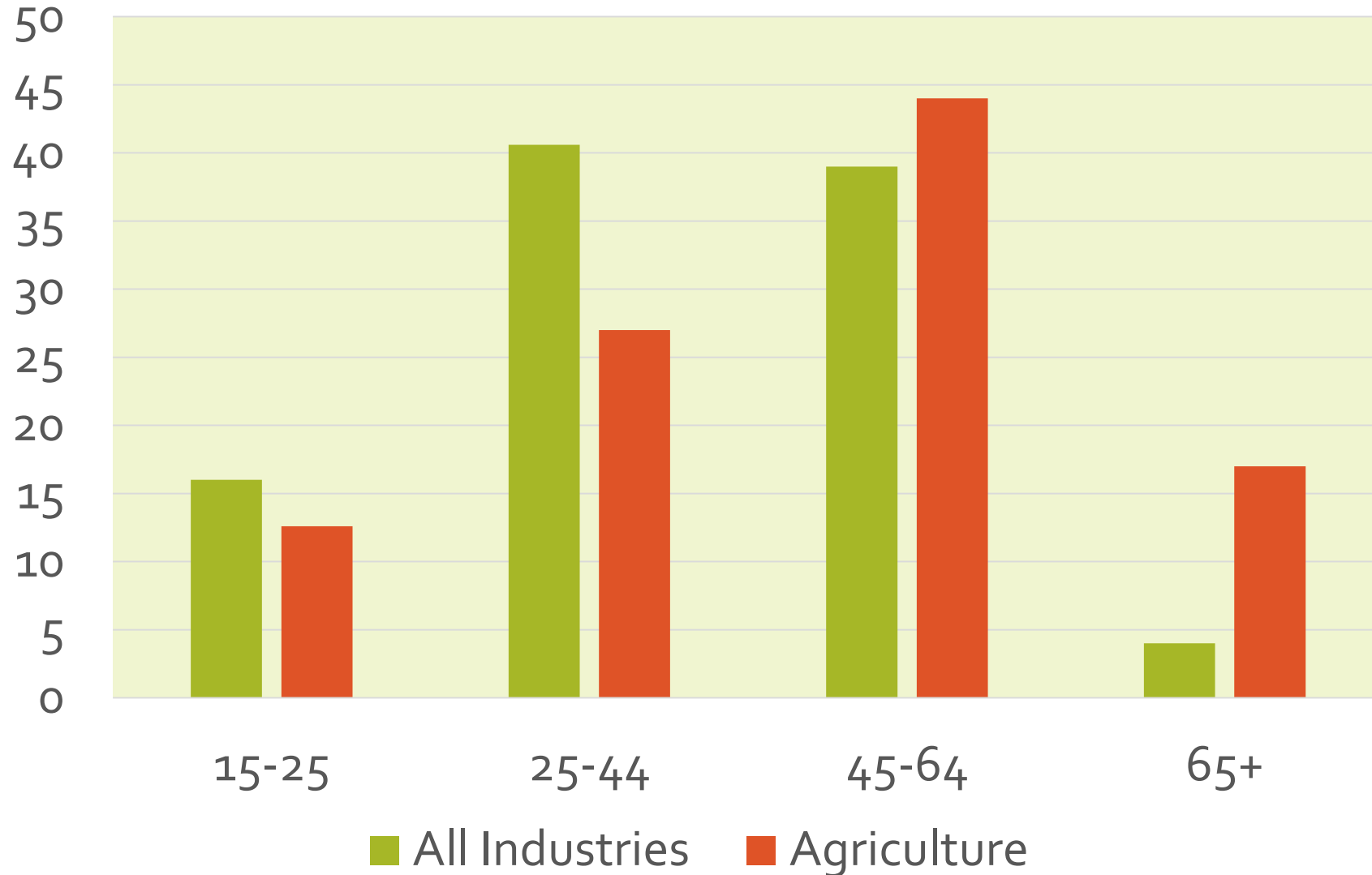
The Problems

- Positions in agriculture are often going unfilled
- The average age of agriculture workers is higher than that of all workers

Jobs Left Unfilled



Workforce Age



Source: Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada

The Problems

- Many urban students cannot get summer positions or permanent positions in animal agriculture as they have no experience
- Many students have not considered a career in agriculture as they have no history with it



Can we make use of the fall and summer reading weeks to provide students with farm placements to gain volunteer experiential learning opportunities?



ANIMAL SCIENCE MINI-INTERNSHIPS

Process

- Students must have taken at least one animal science class
- Students write a statement of why they want to participate
- All students are interviewed
- Placements made
- Pre-internship meeting
- Internships take place
- Post-internship meeting / Assessment



ANIMAL SCIENCE MINI-INTERNSHIPS

- Three days duration (24 hours)
- Two to four students per site
- Students are volunteers (not paid)
- Students are responsible for own lunch / transportation (Mileage covered for over 100 km distance)
- Hotels covered for sites more than 100 km from Edmonton
- U of A provides boots and coveralls
- Students must agree to farm biosecurity protocol
- Students cannot bring phones or cameras on to farm

Number of Host Sites

	Fall 2016	Winter 2017	Fall 2017	Winter 2018
Poultry	4	3	3	4
Beef		3	3	3
Equine			5	3
Dairy	1	2	2	1
Veterinary			2	2
Swine	1	1	1	1
Goats			1	
Total	6	9	17	14

Number of Students Hosted

	Fall 2016	Winter 2017	Fall 2017	Winter 2018	Total
Poultry	10	6	6	9	31
Beef		9	8	8	25
Equine			18	8	26
Dairy	2	4	5	3	14
Veterinary			6	4	10
Swine	3	3	3	4	13
Goats			3		3
Total	15	22	49	36	122

Student Feedback

As a result of your mini-internship, to what extent was this goal met*	Winter 2017 Fall 2017 Winter 2018
I am more aware of potential career options	62.1%
I learned how I can apply my education, training and/or experience	69.0%
I was able to test a career option I am interested	63.8%
I clarified my work-related preferences and interests	81%

* Percentage of students who responded that the goals were met moderately or strongly

Student Feedback

As a result of your mini-internship, to what extent was this goal met*	Winter 2017 Fall 2017 Winter 2018
I made useful connections with professionals in animal science	69.0%
I feel more confident about my work search and career prospects	60.3%
I gained hands-on experience with an animal science industry	90.0%
My host organized meaningful and engaging activities for me	91.4%

* Percentage of students who responded that the goals were met moderately or strongly

Host Feedback

As a result of your mini-internship, to what extent was this goal met*	Winter 2017 Fall 2017 Winter 2018
I was able to provide a student with career advice and support I had (or wish I had) when I started my career	72%)
I feel I have contributed to the growth and development of my industry	72%
I learned about what students want in their job and workplace	56%

* Percentage of students who responded that the goals were met moderately or strongly

Host Feedback

As a result of your mini-internship, to what extent was this goal met*	Winter 2017 Fall 2017 Winter 2018
The experience provided variety in my work day	84%
I feel more connected to the University of Alberta as an alumnus (if applicable)	56%
Overall I enjoyed my experience as a mini-internship host	96%

* Percentage of students who responded that the goals were met moderately or strongly



Future Plans

- Fund raise for an endowment to cover costs in perpetuity
- Expand the program to include allied animal industries (processors, feed industry, genetics providers)
- Expand the program to include other agricultural areas (food science, land reclamation)



ANIMAL SCIENCE MINI-INTERNSHIPS



- For more information contact me:
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