



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE IS RESTORED AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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Hargis Hall (Former Agriculture Building)



Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama

- 1856: East Alabama Male College was established (Methodist School)
- 1872: Methodist Gave the College to State of Alabama
- 1872: Under Provisions of the Morrill Land-Grant allowed school to purchase more land surrounding the campus.
- 1872: April 1872 state of Alabama purchased school and renamed to Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama



Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama

- April 1872 was chartered as Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama
- Opened with 43 students in Agricultural Studies (1 teacher hired)
- First catalogue defined agricultural studies as “book farming” was “not to teach how to plow, but the reason for plowing at all; to teach the composition and nature of soil; the philosophy of plowing, of manuring, and the adaptations of the different soils to different crops and cultures. It is not simply to teach each how to feed, but to show the composition, action and value of the several kinds of feed, and the laws of feeding, fattening, and healthful growth.”

Course of Study:

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama (early years).

- 1st year: agriculture, mathematics, english, physics, natural history, drawing and penmanship, Latin, military, chemistry, geology, Greek, and topographical drawing.”
- Scientific Agriculture: was higher level.
 - Included: soil culture crops, animal husbandry, stock breeding, feeding, veterinary science, agricultural engineering and drainage of land.



Course of Study:

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama (early years).

Professor of Practical Agriculture,
Horticulture and Pomology

- Hired Princeton alumnus and former Alabama legislator, William Jemison, was first Professor Practical Agriculture, Horticulture and Pomology.
- Professor of Chemistry served in Ag (W.C. Stubbs)
- Rev. Tichnor 1st President and Professor of Moral Philosophy, Logic, & History.
- In 8 months, board changed Rev. Tichnor title to President & Professor of Scientific Agriculture (fired Jemison).



Early History



- i. Changes were good
- Federal Inspector (J.M. Hoyt) from Minnesota said he “experienced gratification that the President of the College should be the Professor of Agriculture,” and reported being satisfied with the new college. (1875) (Yeager and Stevenson, 2000).

Early Curriculum & Graduates

- i. 1876: first year Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture was awarded (just 4 years after school opened).
 - 7 students received degree that year
- Early on: Ag students had to take Latin and Greek and Political Economy.
- 1883: less emphasis on classics
 - Motto was: “To Tuscaloosa for the Classics - - to Auburn for the Technics”. President Tichnor supported moving curriculum to more sciences including agriculture.



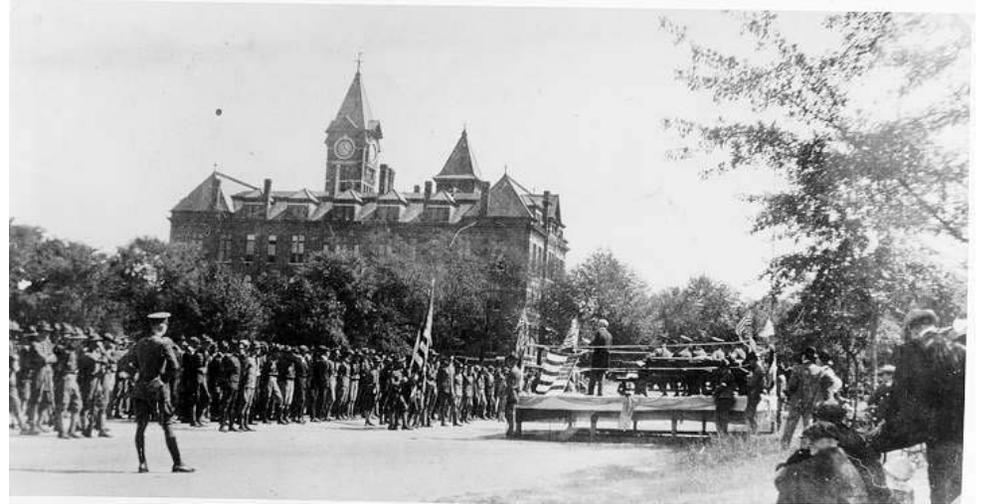
Early Curriculum & Graduates

I. 1884: four courses taught

- ❑ Agriculture and Chemistry
- ❑ Mechanics and Engineering
- ❑ Languages

❑ Admissions:

- ❑ 14 years old young men (changed to 15 a year later)
- ❑ All students at school were enrolled in Military Training.



Early History



- i. Yeager and Stevenson (2000) state in *Inside Ag Hill: The people and Events That Shaped Auburn's Agricultural History from 1872 through 1999*.

“Curricular in agriculture have increased and changed over time. One curriculum however, has been a mainstay and that is Agricultural Science. Nevertheless, courses included in this offering have changed.” (pp. 45).

History



- I. 1927: general group of electives was offered
- II. 1930's: began more toward more specialized degrees
- III. 1950's thru 1980's: Agriculture Science remained as a stand alone degree that was administered through the Dean's office.

Agricultural Sciences - dropped



- “The year 1998-99 heralded the end of the longest running curriculum in agriculture - - “Agricultural Science.” Because of the low number of graduates, the curriculum was dropped” (Yeager and Stevenson, 2000).

Bringing Ag. Science Back

- ❑ **Alabama Farmers Federation**
 - ❑ **Many Ag Leaders (former Ag. Science graduates) voiced concern to bring back Ag. Science.**
 - ❑ **Dr. Brian Parr, former Professor of Agriscience Education (currently Dept. Head, Murray State University)**
 - ❑ **Played key role in facilitating this**
 - ❑ **He encouraged College of Agriculture Dean to consider this**
 - Idea to allow Agriscience Education majors (College of Education) to double-major in Ag. Science (College of Agriculture)**



Bringing Ag. Science Back

- ❑ **Dean Paul Patterson (College of Agriculture) formed Ad-Hoc committee to put forth new curriculum in September 2014.**
 - ❑ **Preliminary proposal was put forth by Brian Parr and Wheeler Foshee**
 - ❑ **Dean approved and formal College Ad-hoc committee was formed to develop curriculum**

- ❑ **Ad-hoc committee: Plan of Study drafted (Oct., 2015)**
- ❑ **College of Agriculture and Education Curriculum Committee: approved Jan., 2016)**
- ❑ **University Curriculum Committee: approved (April, 2016).**
- ❑ **University Board of Trustees approved (June, 2016)**
- ❑ **Alabama Commission of Higher Education: approved November, 2016)**



Launching Ag. Science Degree



- ❑ **Fall of 2017: six students (with some limited publicity in Farmers Federation Magazine and College of Ag pubs).**
- ❑ **2018: end of spring: 22 students**
- ❑ **2019: end of spring: 56 students**
- ❑ **Fall 2019: transfers and new students expected enrollment 110.**

Ag. Science



- ❑ **Easy sell – many students want broad Agricultural background**
- ❑ **Fits out state well:**
 - ❑ **Very diverse Agricultural degree : cattle, row crops, some catfish, forestry, poultry, and some fruit and vegetable and nursery crop production.**
- ❑ **Job demand:**
 - ❑ **Very high:**
 - ❑ **John Deere tractor dealerships**
 - ❑ **Farm Chemical/Fertilizer sales**
 - ❑ **Farming**
 - ❑ **Poultry Industry**
 - ❑ **Landscape maintenance**

Ag. Science - benefits



- **Agriscience Education interactions:**
 - **AgriScience Education:**
 - housed in College of Education (history: first education degree offered at AU).
 - Very high demand for these graduates
 - Lot's of overlap in technical Ag courses and well as Ag. Ed. Classes (shop, mechanics, etc.).
 - **Much closer relations with faculty, graduate students and students**
 - **Cooperative Research between Colleges has increased**

Future



- ❑ **If current trends continue**
- ❑ **Agriculture trained graduates in very high demand**

