

There are questions about shifting in funding and structures of governmental organizations, and because of FAEIS's role in data collection of supporting information, we have received questions about the potential impacts of the recent discussions of restructuring. Agricultural enrollment information is crucial in higher education because it helps institutions, policymakers, and educators understand the need of funding, resources, and programs to support agricultural students and national efforts. Agricultural programs are vital to American life — they provide education, employment, and experiences to individuals in the field.

This newsletter discusses information relevant to higher education organizations, and will note information about both NLGCA (Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture) and NARRU (The National Association of Renewable Resource Universities). The newsletter will conclude with an overview of relevant data noting NARRU impacts on agricultural science degrees.

With your continued help and reporting, FAEIS will continue to provide its users and the USDA with agricultural data among higher education students and will be able to help visualize the importance of agricultural programs in higher education.

The Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS) is a national web-based database of student and faculty data. FAEIS provides empirical information for use in planning and coordinating efforts, directed towards supporting higher education in food science, agriculture, life and human sciences, and natural resources. If you need enrollment or degrees awarded data in those areas, email faeis@vt.edu your request.

NARRU AT A GLANCE

- *51 members*
- *Membership across 32 states*
- *Most recent conference hosted in Maryville, Missouri*

FAEIS UPDATES: NEW LOGIN SYSTEM AND SURVEY STATUS UPDATES

The Fall 2024 Detail Student Survey deadline was March 1st. This survey asked for various head counts (enrollment, degrees awarded, transfer, placement) broken down by program area, degree level, gender and ethnicity. If your institution did not complete this survey, the FAEIS office will be contacting you.

The Faculty Survey deadline is June 1st. This surveys asks for faculty demographics and employment information. If you have any questions regarding the survey or need assistance completing the forms, please email the FAEIS helpdesk.

Regarding the FAEIS user system, all users of the FAEIS web application will be migrated to a new authentication mechanism this summer and existing FAEIS passwords will no longer have access to the system. Users will be presented with options to log in with either their institutional credentials or to create a Virginia Tech Guest Account and log in with that. Further instructions will be provided on-screen when this feature is deployed. Thank you for your patience as we improve our security to meet the Virginia Tech Minimum Security Standards.



Photo courtesy of Arkansas State University Department of Agriculture

WHAT IS AN NLGCA, AND WHAT IS NARRU?

NLGCA institutions award forty-five percent of the baccalaureate degrees awarded each year in “agriculture, food, and renewable resource related majors are from NLGCA institutions in the 13 primary states served by these institutions.”

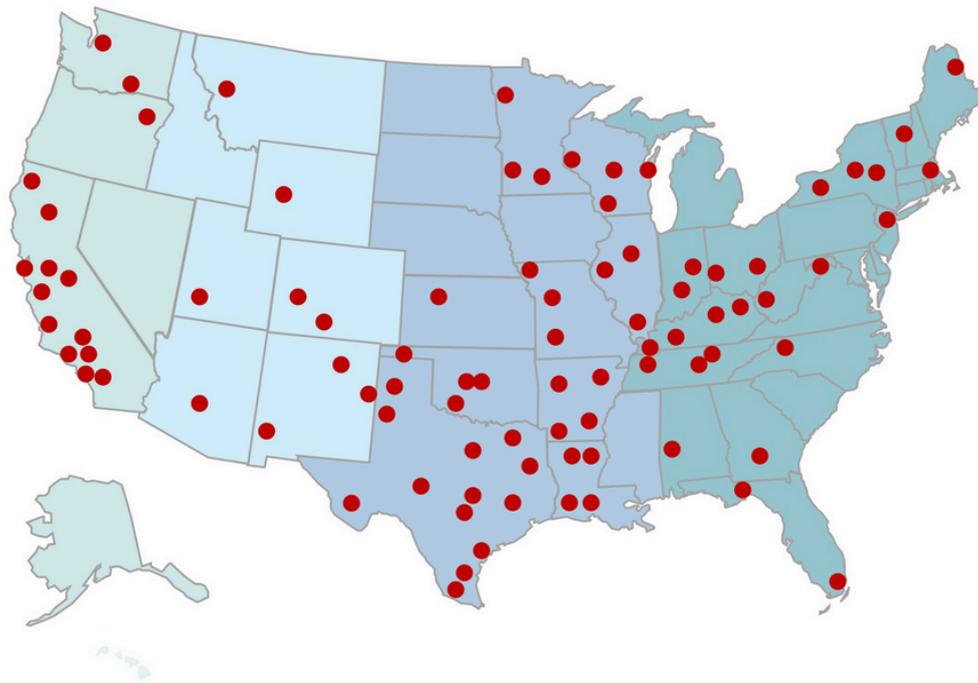
“These public colleges and universities offer baccalaureate or higher degrees and represent an accessible and affordable alternative in agriculture, food, and renewable resource education for over 50,000 students annually,” (NARRU, 2024).

These institutions work to develop infrastructure to carry out "agricultural research, teaching and outreach activities; enhance the ability of faculty members to engage in agricultural professional development opportunities; and increase the number, quality and diversity of qualified graduates entering the food and agricultural workforce" (APLU, 2024). The NLGCA program supports new degree programs in food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences through funding in order to help generate new employment opportunities.

NLGCA emphasis is “curricula on business, critical thinking, problem-solving, decision making, creativity, communications and teamwork. NLGCA institutions produce science-based and workforce ready graduates with a strong work ethic who may choose to pursue graduate studies, enter into industry and government careers, and return to production-oriented positions on our nation’s farms and ranches” (APLU, 2024).

All NLGCA are eligible to become members of NARRU. According to NARRU’s website, which is hosted by the APLU (Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities), NARRU’s mission is to “be a forum and unifying force for all faculty, students, staff, and administrators of agriculture, food, and renewable resource programs at NARRU state funded public colleges and universities.”

NARRU membership is open to public colleges and universities that offer programs in agriculture and renewable natural resources. Membership is by application and approval by the NARRU Board of Directors and is sustained by payment of an annual membership fee. NARRU members are located across the country, as displayed via the map below.

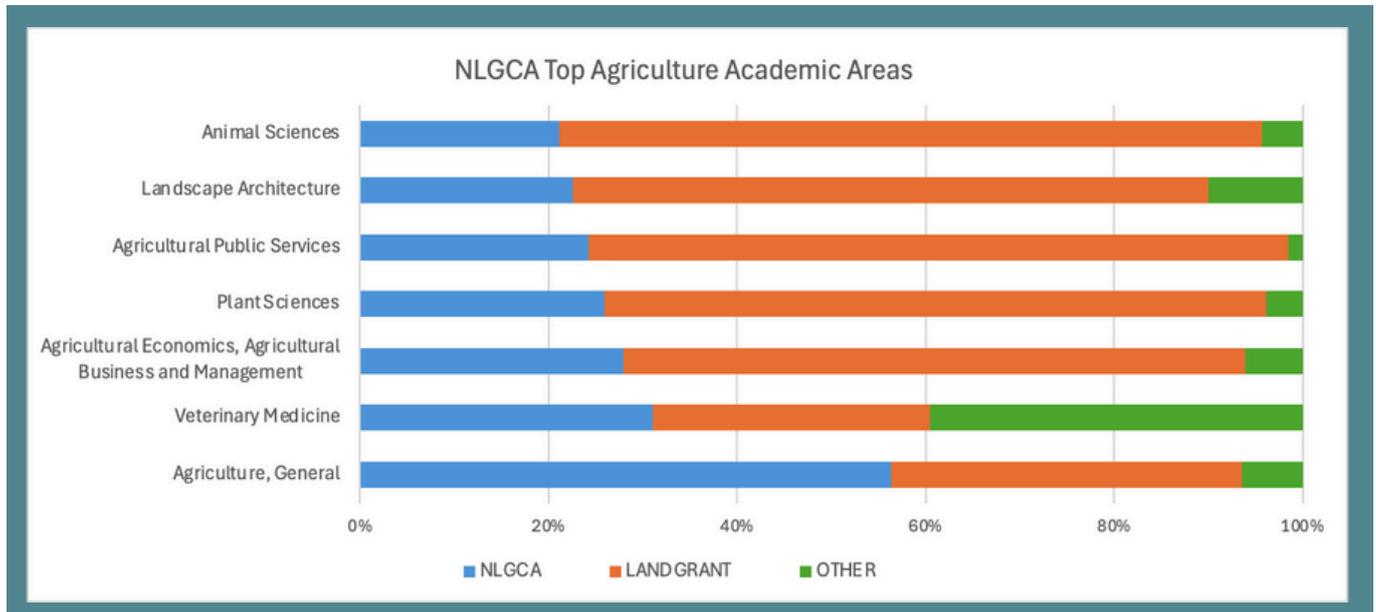


Benefits of membership at institutional, state, and national levels include:

- Working together, NARRU members share ideas and explore avenues for solving common problems and exploring opportunities that strengthen their instructional, research, and service programs in agriculture and renewable resources.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships among non-land-grant and land grant universities as well as community colleges to enhance their teaching, research and outreach missions.
- Develop and strengthen their ties and influence with state and federal legislators as NARRU seeks to establish permanent funding to support capacity building for non-land grant institutions with agriculture and renewable resource programs.
- Strengthen NARRU's voice on the Budget and Advocacy Board of Directors, Farm Bill Committee, and NAREEE (The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics) Advisory Board to enhance stature and funding for their institutions.
- Increase opportunities for collaboration on research grants and cooperative projects with member institutions, land grant universities and community colleges.
- Strengthen their ability to develop leaders in non-land grant institutions through professional development workshops and training offered at their annual meeting.
- Broaden abilities to identify and focus on issues that are priorities for teaching, research, and outreach among non-land grant institutions.
- Opportunities to recognize outstanding performance of faculty from member institutions at the national level through the NARRU Distinguished Young Educator and Distinguished Educator Award programs.

Institutions interested in joining NARRU should send an e-mail to Membership Committee Chair, Gary Webb at garyeebb@missouriState.edu.

NLGCA AND NARRU: LOOKING AT THE DATA



There is considerable overlap between NLGCA and NARRU, as only 5 NARRU members are not classified as a NLGCA — Maryville University, Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, University of Hawaii at Hilo, and University of Nebraska-Kearny.

From 2017 to 2023, NLGCA collectively conferred 56.33% of all bachelor's degrees awarded in general agriculture, surpassing the 37.26% awarded by Land Grant institutions. The remaining 6.42% were conferred by other postsecondary institutions. During the same time frame, NLGCA also conferred a significant proportion of bachelor's degrees in other key fields within the agricultural sciences.

- 31.09% in Veterinary Medicine
- 27.90% in Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Business, and Management
- 25.94% in Plant Sciences
- 24.26% in Agricultural Public Services
- 22.63% in Landscape Architecture
- 21.10% in Animal Sciences

These figures highlight the variety of programs offered by NLGCA institutions. As a majority subset of NARRU, these institutions contribute meaningfully to the landscape of agricultural higher education. Their curricular diversity highlights the importance of recognition and support for their role in training future professionals in food, agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.