A SWOT Analysis of Agricultural Courses for Dual Credit

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Agricultural Courses for Dual Credit

- USDA NIFA Secondary Challenge Grant
- Award # 2014-38414-22393
- Texas A&M University-Commerce
  Delivered ANS 1319 Intro to Animal Science to:
  - Kemp High School (periurban) 5
  - Sam Rayburn High School (rural) 4
  - South Garland (urban) 7
Strengths

• Dual credit with *Advanced Animal Science*

• High School Science Credit

• Students introduced to:
  – University admission process
  – Online course format and activities
  – Variety of assessment methods
  – College/university course expectations
  – University level course content
Weaknesses

- No standard approach among school partners
- Teachers may lack master’s degree
- Changes in personnel resulted in delayed start
- Lack of interest outside of the ag classroom
- Online delivery presented challenges
- Secondary teachers lacked access to student work/grades
- Class time concurrent with students not in DC
Opportunities

• Secondary interest among other schools
• Potential for expansion to other disciplines
• Low/no cost access to university coursework
• Access to diverse group of potential students
• Chance to promote majors/careers in Ag
• Incentive for teachers to pursue master’s
Threats

• Personnel changes
• Lack of support/disinterest by administrators
• Variation for promoting on HS campus
• Inconsistency with *who pays* for course(s)
• University courses more expensive than those from community colleges
Observation from Pilot Project

• Little interest from partnership schools in dual credit in *Food Science*
• Secondary teachers want greater role
• More challenging with larger campuses
• Communication among all stakeholders is essential for success
• Secondary courses designated for dual credit should limit enrollment only to those interested in pursuing university/college credit
Incentives for Partners in this Project

- Classroom set (20) laptops and charge station
- Stipend for teacher collaboration
- Small budget for supplies, substitute teacher, and professional development for teacher
- University course (3 SCH) at $150 per student
Future Plans

• Summer *AC/DC Institute* for interested secondary teachers

• Offer two courses Fall 2016
  – *Introduction to Animal Science*
  – *Principles of Food Science*

• Expand course offerings and partnerships
Questions?