



**Leading Change in the Division of Agriculture's Food Science Institute  
William Benjy Mikel**

**Issue:** The Food Science Institute should be reorganized into the Food Animal Systems Institute in order to broaden the scope of involvement and enhance collaboration. Currently, the FSI is an ineffective collection of faculty which only targets minimal food related issues primarily at the further processing level with minimal industry involvement. Poor past leadership and allocation of resources has led to minimal progress within the current system. In addition, the Institute currently serves, at best, as an equal to, but probably below the department hierarchy leading to lack of commitment. Reorganization of the current Institute into a broader Food Systems approach with equal ownership by departments will enhance collaborative activities and productivity. In addition, the close proximity and current working relationship of numerous departments would allow the cross-utilization of the following resources while allowing autonomous leadership to currently remain in place:

- a. Faculty- Dual positions
- b. Staff- Shared support positions
- c. Laboratories- Shared common space

**What has been done:** Preliminary discussions have been held and preparatory planning initiated however, the plan is on hold until upper administrative positions within the DAFVM are filled.

**Impacts:** The potential impact would be greater cooperation and collaborative efforts in addition to potential cost savings from shared resources.

**Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors etc.:** Internal funding from MSU's DAFVM and continued congressional initiative funding are required. Cooperators will include numerous MSU departments and possibly investigators from other sister institutions.

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