

### Contributions and Significance of Research:

Departments of Agricultural and Extension Education (AEE) must be concerned with properly preparing students for professional career roles. In order for colleges and universities to meet the employee requirements of business and industry, they must recognize and address the needs that will enable graduates to become most effective in their chosen field. This study has provided a means for assessing these needs that will help target AEE course offerings and experiences.

The author has provided a very good rationale for the study. Several other similar studies were noted and briefly described, and these provided a strong foundation for this study. The author could have strengthened the conclusion section of the paper by tying this research into these previous studies.

Several purposes were specified and reported upon. These included the perceived level of preparation, the perceived level of importance, and differences between preparation and importance among knowledge, skills and abilities of entry-level graduates. Also, the perceived value of experiential education and major trends that will be affecting graduates were examined.

### Procedural Considerations:

The study was conducted among 37 employers of 1996-1999 entry-level graduates. Twenty employers responded for a 54% response rate. Were these 20 responding employers representative of the total population?

A three-part questionnaire was utilized and described in the paper. A committee of 10 representatives from various agricultural disciplines validated the content of the questions. Was instrument face validity considered and was and pilot testing also utilized? Descriptive statistics were calculated and reported in the paper. Data were reported in the text as well as through tables and figures. To make this information more readable and understandable, it is suggested that these be reported via rank order.

### Questions for Consideration:

Six recommendations were developed based upon these findings, and these appear to be accurate and justified by the findings. Since this study, what has been done or what will be done to address these? What specific steps have been taken? Are AEE departments responsible for all of these areas? What role should other departments play?

Were there any unexpected findings from this study? In other words, were there any findings that the researchers assumed would be different from the employers felt needs?

Were there differences among various types of employers? Can any conclusions and recommendations be drawn based upon type of employer?