

# Enrollment Trends by Agricultural Academic Areas

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## Introduction

- Studies show that there is a shortage in the number of agriculture educators nationwide. This shortage presents multiple challenges, including the reduction of the number of agriculture classes offered and lack of advisors for the Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs at the secondary education level. This issue is exacerbated by the decline in undergraduate student enrollment in Agriculture Teacher Education programs.
- The Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS) compiles nationwide higher education data for the food, agriculture, natural resources, and family and consumer science fields from approximately 200 institutions of higher education. Their data is a collaborative resource that is utilized to explore enrollment trends in different agricultural disciplines.

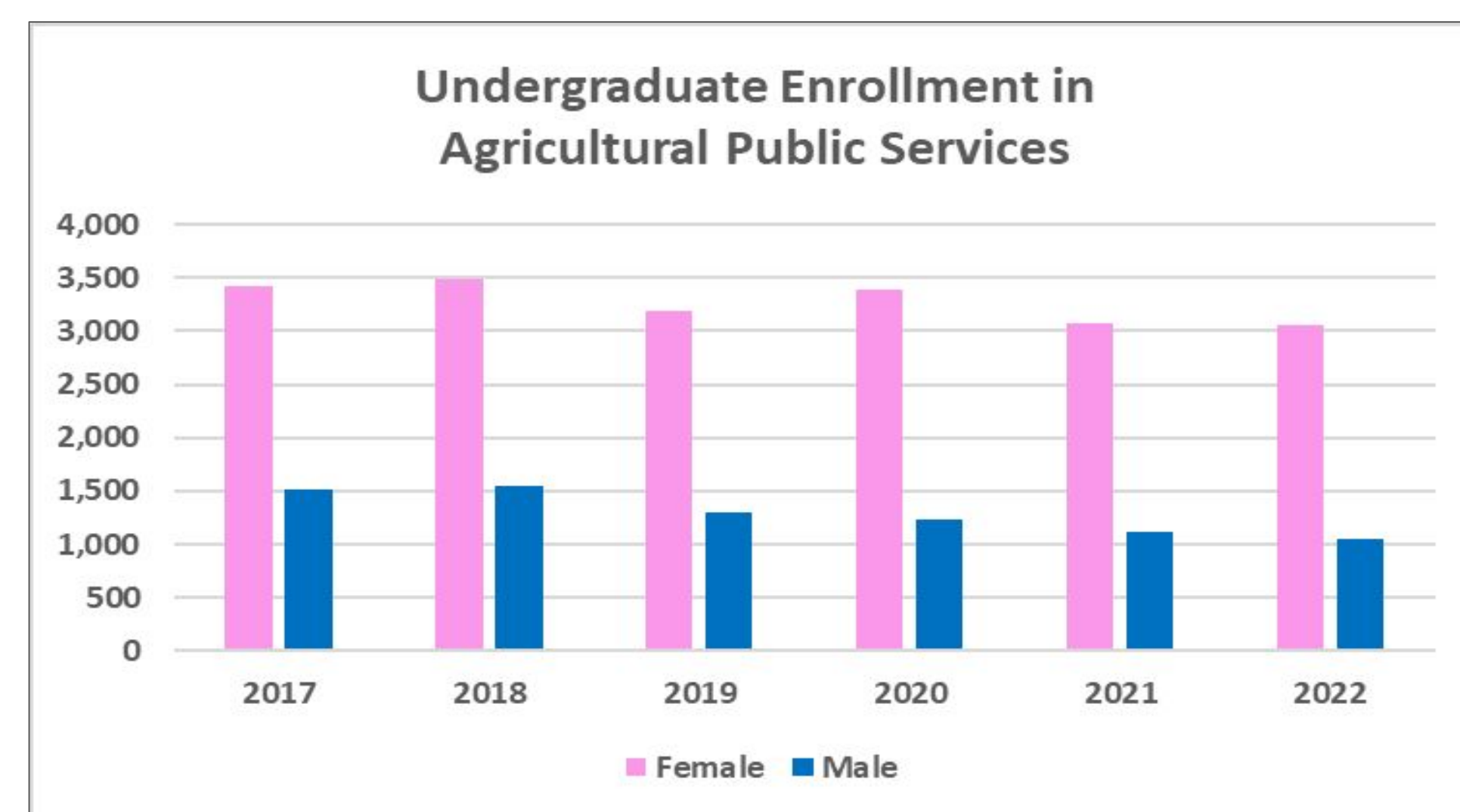
## Methods

- FAEIS surveys and collates data related to enrollment and degrees awarded disaggregated by Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code. CIP codes are a taxonomic six-digit coding scheme of academic programs.
- This level of data disaggregation allows for aggregation of programs into academic areas. FAEIS organizes 283 unique six-digit CIP codes into 52 academic areas. Data presented focuses on the 109 CIP codes grouped into 15 academic areas across 115 institutions. The FAEIS dataset and online Report Builder tool is used to conduct trend analysis by agricultural academic areas.

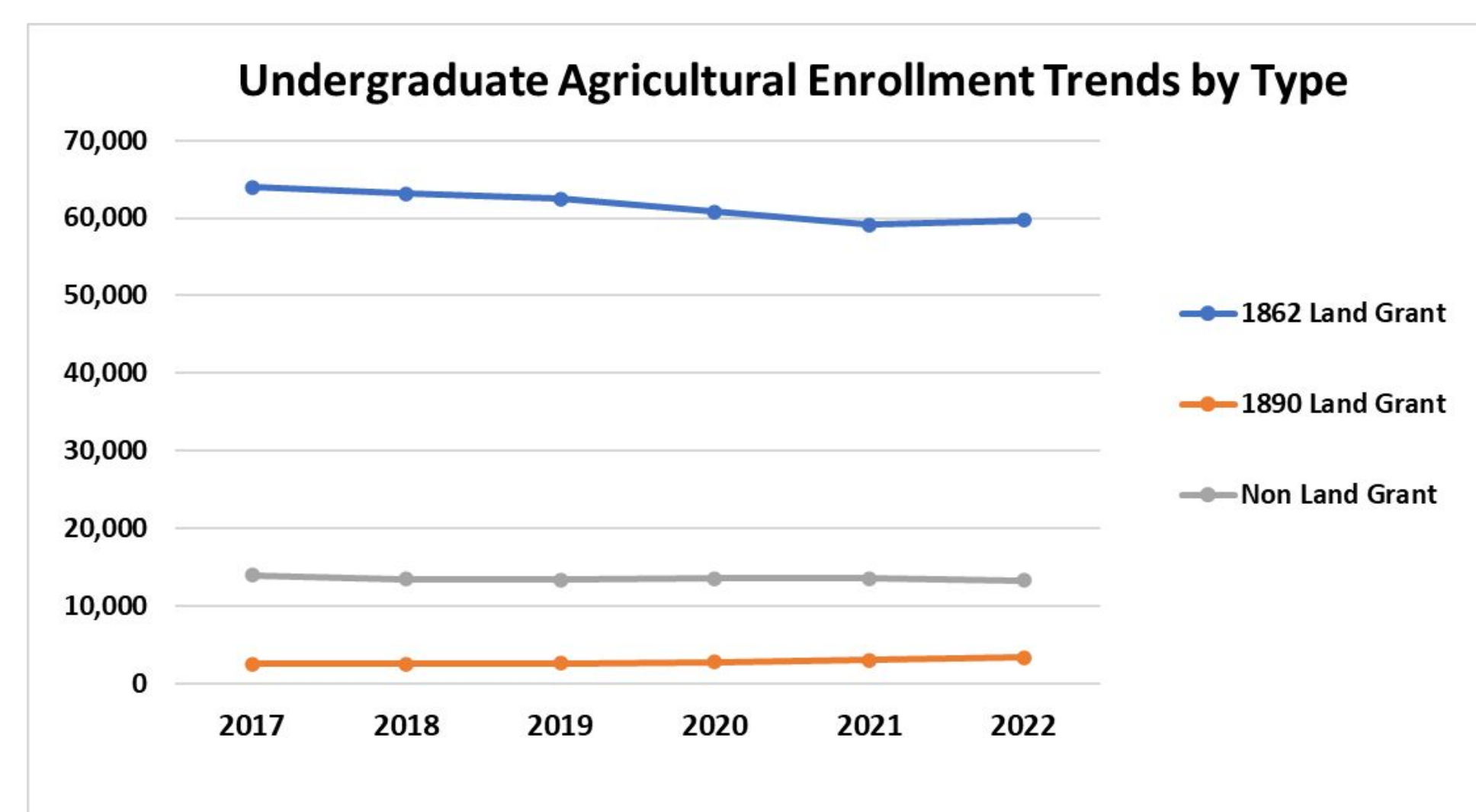
## Conclusions

- Tracking and understanding enrollment trends is important to university administrators for strategic planning, benchmarking, and recruitment.
- The voluntary data FAEIS makes publicly available provides transparency regarding student enrollment trends and enables discussions regarding potential solutions regarding declines in enrollment and subsequent shortage of workers in certain fields.

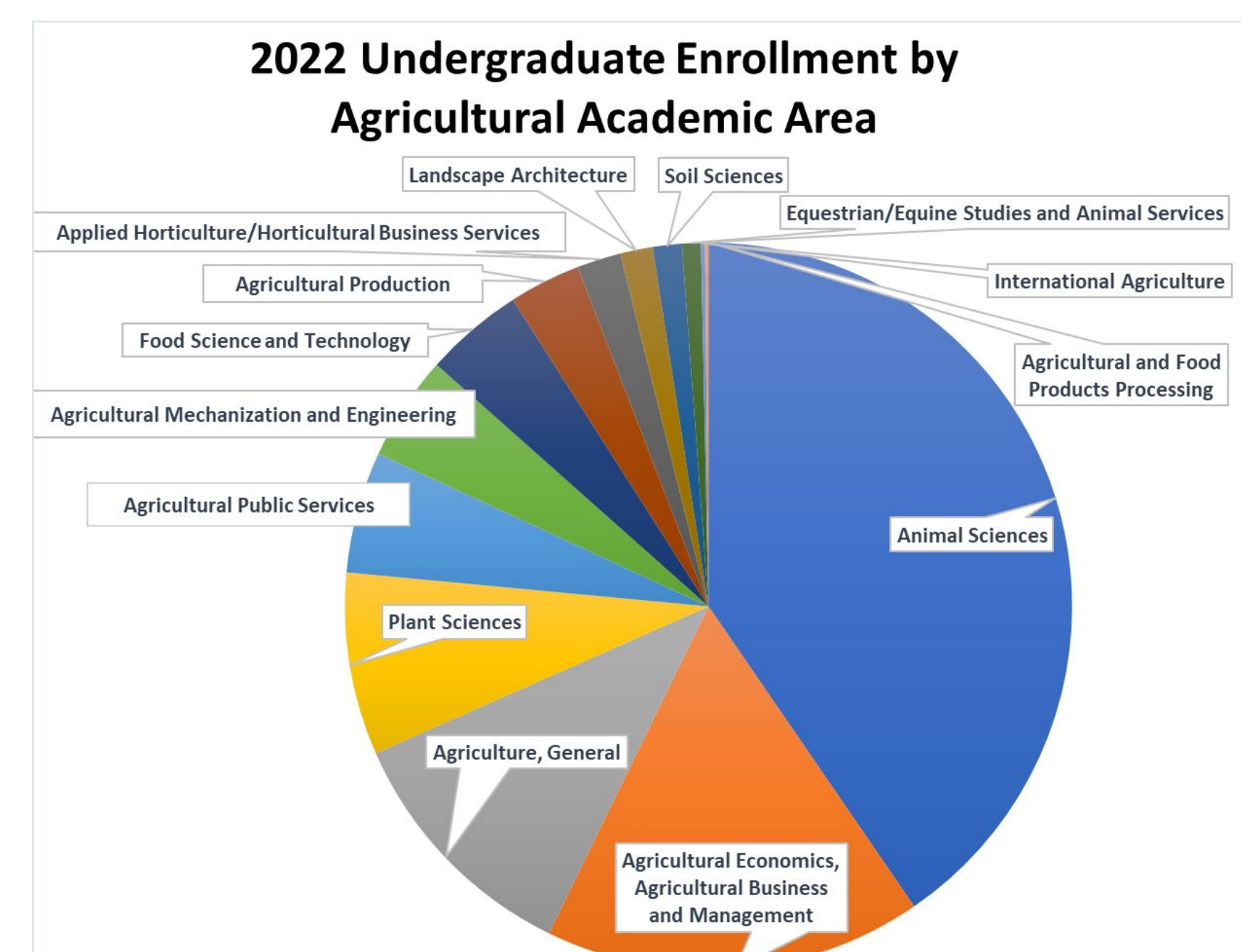
## Results



**Statement 1:** One of the 15 agricultural academic areas defined by FAEIS is Agricultural Public Services, which includes CIP codes mapping to Agricultural and Extension Education Services, Agricultural Teacher Education, and Agricultural Communication/Journalism. In this academic area, females dominate males with a 75/25 ratio but overall enrollment has been declining since 2007.



**Statement 2:** FAEIS categorizes the surveyed institutions by type: 1862 Land Grant, 1890 Land Grant, 1994 Land Grant, and Non-Land Grant. When we look at enrollment in agricultural fields by institution type, agricultural enrollment has decreased by 6.7% at 1862 Land Grants and 4.9% at Non-Land-Grants. Enrollment has increased by 34% at 1890 Land Grant institutions.



**Statement 3:** When we look at undergraduate enrollment across all 15 of the agricultural academic areas and across all institutions, the three programs with the highest enrollment include: Animal Sciences, Agricultural Economics/Business and Management, and Agricultural General.