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Section I: Request

Utah State University proposes to eliminate the emphasis areas in the Bachelor of Science degree program in Agricultural Education effective Fall Semester 2012. The four emphasis areas will be replaced by a single set of requirements for the technical agriculture courses related to this major. Students will still be allowed to concentrate in the areas currently represented by the emphasis areas through the use of specified elective courses.

Section II: Need

Currently, the Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education offers four emphasis areas. These emphasis areas include *Production and Processing*, *Horticulture*, *Natural Resources*, and *Agricultural Systems Technology*. These emphasis areas were designed to be aligned with career pathways in agriculture as well as to allow students who had studied related majors to move easily into the teacher education program under agricultural education. However, all four emphasis areas lead toward one general teacher license area through the Utah State Office of Education. The four emphasis areas have resulted in a lack of consistency in the preparation of teachers, confusion in the advising of students, and varied success on the content knowledge exam required for licensure. Utah State University is the only institution in Utah that prepares students for licensure in agriculture. These changes have been approved by the agricultural education specialist in the Utah State Office of Education and will result in a degree program more similar to other institutions in the Intermountain West and throughout the U.S.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The single track of major requirements will result in simplified advising of students as well as greater consistency in the preparation of secondary agriculture teachers. Students who enter the program from other program areas (e.g., horticulture or natural resources) as transfer students or as second bachelor's degree students will still be accommodated through the breadth of the technical agriculture course requirements and through the technical agriculture concentration/elective courses. It is anticipated that the elimination of the emphasis areas will not have any negative impacts on student enrollment.

Section IV: Finances

The elimination of the emphasis areas will not require any new physical facilities or fiscal resources.