

Colorado State University Department of Animal Sciences
Department Diversifying
By Dixie Crowe

Agriculture has long been a male dominated field, but many people are surprised to find out the current enrollment in the department of animal sciences is 80 percent female. Societal changes in the United States as well as women in major teaching and research positions, like [Dr. Temple Grandin](#), have been instrumental in the increase of women enrolling in programs like animal sciences at Colorado State University.

However, the demographic shift is not just women entering agriculture. It also includes Hispanics, other people of color, as well as urban populations.

Over the past five years the department of animal sciences has implemented a strategic plan and changed their recruitment of students and faculty to better mirror the state's population. In addition to these changes, in 2013 Shannon Archibeque-Engle became the Director of Diversity and Retention for the [College of Agricultural Sciences](#) after being an advisor in the department of animal sciences for many years. She is a member of many associations including the Colorado Coalition for the Educational Advancement of Latinos.

[Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences](#), a student club on campus, is a small microcosm of the diversity within the College of Agriculture. Faculty advisor Ruben Flores, who also works on recruiting and retention for the college, assists the students with professional development and fundraising to attend the national conference where students can network with industry leaders.

While the department of animal sciences may not fully represent the diversity of the population of Colorado, with their strategic plan and staff in key recruitment positions, they are well on their way to increasing diversity within the department, college, and university.