Public Abstract  
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Title: EMPLOYERS PERCEPTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (ASM) GRADUATES COMPETENCIES AND SKILL LEVEL IN THE WORK ENVIRONMENT  

The University of Missouri Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) and Agricultural Engineering Extension program is undergoing a six year review in order to evaluate whether or not the department is satisfying the needs of the community and student population. In order to increase the usefulness of this review a survey was sent to 100 employers of ASM graduates and self-employed ASM graduates asking for their perception of the skill level of the ASM graduate they employ and the importance of that skill to their industry for 11 general skills and 29 ASM skills that the ASM program is currently teaching in its curriculum. Employers within the agriculture industry will provide valuable information to the ASM program to improve its curriculum in order to better prepare its graduates for the workforce. The results indicate that general skills relating to marketing, finance, and people management and ASM skills relating to precision agriculture need to be emphasized more in the ASM program. Skills relating to biofuels, pesticide application, and agricultural structures need to be De-emphasized as indicated by employers. This information will help the ASM faculty enhance their curriculum to better serve the agriculture industry.