

AAE 320: FARMING SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT: Fall 2018

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Office Hours
By Appointment

Class: MWF 9:55 – 10:45 in 1420 Microbial Sciences, 1550 Linden Drive

This 3 credit course meets for three 50-minute class period each week over the semester with the expectation that students will work on course activities for about 2 hours out of classroom for every class period. The syllabus includes additional information about meeting times and expectations for student work.

Departmental Contacts

Linda Davis, 424 Taylor Hall, 262-9488, linda.davis@wisc.edu

Kathy Martin-Taylor, 429 Taylor Hall, 262-8966, kmartint@wisc.edu

Course Homepage: <http://www.aae.wisc.edu/aae320/>

Materials will be posted throughout the semester, including lecture notes, papers, spreadsheets, problem sets, exams, and answer keys. I will use the class web page from previous years as the “backbone” and leave materials posted from the previous year so students can see the larger picture of where the class is going. As the semester progresses, I regularly will update the class page to post the material we will be currently be using, providing a “***** Not Updated Below This Point *****” so students can see where the page is up-to-date and what is left from the previous year.

Text

No textbook is required, but several good farm management texts exist. If interested in a text to keep for reference, I suggest looking at several and choosing the one that best fits your style. The “classic” farm management text is:

Farm Management, 8th ed. R.D. Kay, W.M. Edwards, and P.A. Duffy. Dubuque, IA: McGraw Hill. 2015.

I will make various materials available in class and/or on the course homepage. I expect students to use/read these, which may include paying costs for printing materials freely available on the internet. Many useful farm management materials are available on the internet for free.

Course Objective

This course’s objective is for students to understand basic economic principles and their application to the management of agricultural production systems and to gain an appreciation of the complexity of U.S. farming.

Course Content

See course outline on last page

Course Grade

Grades will be calculated based on the following weights

In-Class Exams (2 x 25% each):	50%
Comprehensive Final Exam:	25%
Problem Sets (about 8 during semester)	20%
Class Participation	5%

Grading will be as follows:

≥ 93	A
$88 \leq \text{and} < 93$	AB
$83 \leq \text{and} < 88$	B
$78 \leq \text{and} < 83$	BC
$70 \leq \text{and} < 78$	C
$60 \leq \text{and} < 70$	D
< 60	F

Curving of grades will be unnecessary.

Exams

There will be two in-class exams and a comprehensive final. I will announce these exams at least 1 week in advance (but likely earlier than this).

Best Guess: Oct. 12th and Nov. 16th, but these dates could easily change.

Exam questions will be developed from class lecture, materials posted on the class homepage and discussed in class, and problem sets. Previous exams and keys will be available on the course homepage to aid your studies. Questions will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer problems, plus a few mathematical problems. Expect questions to challenge your understanding and use of managerial concepts and tools. Graded exams will be returned as quickly as possible.

Final Exam: December 17 (Monday), 5:05 PM – 7:05 PM

Please schedule end of the semester travel plans accordingly.

Important

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the McBurney Resource Center, 702 W. Johnson Street, Suite 2104, 608-263-2741, (608) 225-7956 (text), or email mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu, or online: <http://mcburney.wisc.edu/>.

- *Please communicate with me early if you have special needs so that I can accommodate your needs in order to enhance your learning experience.*
- *Please communicate with me beforehand if you have a conflict with returning a class assignment on time or taking an examination at the scheduled time.*

Final Comment

Occasionally it becomes necessary to change the grading scheme, topics covered, or other course details. I reserve the right to do so, but I will always discuss such changes with students during lecture.

Outline of Topics Covered in AAE 320

I. Introduction

1. Course Overview
2. Wisconsin Agriculture

II. Production Economics

1. Partial Budgeting
2. Single Input Production Economics
3. Multiple Input Production Economics
4. Cost Economics
5. Special Topics

EXAM #1

(ABOUT OCTOBER 12TH)

III. Farm Finance

1. Financial Analysis: Balance Sheets
2. Financial Analysis: Income Statement

III. Taxes, Business Arrangements and Farm Transfer

1. Overview of Taxes on Farms
2. Tax Considerations for Farm Transfer
3. Beginning Business Arrangements
4. Business Arrangement Alternatives

EXAM #2

(ABOUT NOVEMBER 16TH)

IV. U.S. Farm Policy and Programs

1. Commodity Support Programs
2. Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance

FINAL EXAM

(DECEMBER 17, 5:05 PM – 7:05 PM)

Let's Talk About It: Possible Topics

Instead of a traditional lecture, for some classes I will assemble a variety of materials to read/watch/listen to before class on an issue in agriculture. The goal is to examine the issue from different perspectives to understand the conflict and to assess the evidence.

- Agriculture, Nutrients and Water Quality
- Dairy Farming in Wisconsin and Farm Size
- Beginning Farmers
- Agriculture and Rural Poverty
- Pesticides and Pollinators
- Agricultural Sustainability
- Impacts of Technological Change in Agriculture

If you have an idea for a topic/issue, please share and I will consider it. A key factor will be the potential to assemble a variety of materials.