



**AREC 428 – Agricultural Business Management
Spring 2018**

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Office Hours: By appointment. Drop-ins are also welcome!

Class Meeting time: 10:00a - 10:50a; M, W, F

Class Location: Shepardson 120

Course Description

This course is designed to integrate skills and competencies from the agricultural economics curriculum into a cohesive decision-making system that includes marketing, financial, and strategic management. Students completing the course will have a deeper knowledge of these core skills and a sound understanding of how they interact and influence one another.

Learning Objectives

- Apply skills and competencies from the agriculture economics curriculum into an integrated decision framework applied.
- In a small group, complete an intensive examination of strategic, financial and market position of an existing agribusiness within the context capstone project.
- Define an economic problem for the existing agribusiness, propose alternatives, assess the feasibility of alternatives with appropriate methods, interpret and communicate results to a broad audience.
- Foster professional development by interacting/collaborating with business professionals in defining the goals of the capstone project, choosing methods and communicating results.

Course Prerequisites

AREC 305/EA 305 Enterprise Analysis; AREC 310 Agriculture Marketing

Required Textbook

Barnard, Akridge, Dooley, Foltz, and Yeager. Agribusiness Management. 5th Edition. Routledge. New York, NY. 2016 ISBN: 978-1138891937

Additional reading materials will be provided electronically on the course page on Canvas.

Library Help

Louise Feldmann is the librarian for DARE. Contact her for assistance at Louise.Feldmann@colostate.edu / ph. 970-491-4262. See her research guide at <https://libguides.colostate.edu/c.php?g=332557&p=2234600>

Additionally, the CSU Libraries Help Desk provides both research (ph. 970-491-1841) and technical (ph. 970-491-7276) support. These services are free for all CSU students and can be extremely helpful as you prepare your final project.

AREC 428: Agricultural Business Management

Approach to Course Objectives

As the instructor, I will evaluate the extent to which you understand, comprehend and apply the material covered in this course. To this end, I provide various opportunities for you to demonstrate your knowledge via class assignments, a group project and a presentation. *Throughout the semester, interaction with the professor is not only acceptable, but recommended.*

Assignments

Group Project:

<i>Prospectus/Contract</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Situation Presentation</i>	<i>7.5%</i>
<i>Situation Report</i>	<i>7.5%</i>
<i>Final Report</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Final Presentation</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Case Study 1 & 2</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Assignments</i>	<i>30 %</i>

Group Project

You will participate in a group project which represents 50 percent of your grade. (See Group Project document for more details)

Importantly, this is a capstone class and you're all graduating seniors. This project is an opportunity for you to demonstrate the culmination of your training. It's also an opportunity for developing practical professional skills.

Case Studies

You will be assigned 2 case studies that you will read, evaluate and discuss in groups. Further instructions will be provided later.

Assignments

You will be given periodic assignments to help reinforce what we're learning in the classroom.

“Our” Policies

Late assignments will be docked 20% points for being up to one day late and will not be accepted after that.

You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. If you have more than 3 unexcused absence, your grade may be lowered at least 1 letter grade for each additional absence, e.g. 4 unexcused absences = a 1 letter grade deduction.

If you anticipate missing class, you must provide a verifiable excuse ahead of time.

An excused absence is documented by some authority including, but not limited to: physician or health care professional, CSU athletic program, CSU academic advisor.

If you can't make it to class for some other reason, please come an talk to me!

During class time, do NOT use your phone.

AREC 428: Agricultural Business Management

During class time, do NOT use your laptop/tablet/Macbook, etc.

I highly encourage class participation and questions, both in and out of class. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to see me.

Grade Determination

<i>Percentage of points</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage of points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
100.00%-96.67%	A+	<83.33%-80%	B-
<96.67%-93.33%	A	<80%-76.67%	C+
<93.33%-90%	A-	<76.67%-70%	C
<90%-86.67%	B+	<70%-60%	D
<86.67%-83.33%	B	<60%	F

Principles of Community

In this course we strive to follow and extend Colorado State's University's Principles of Community, and welcome spirited discussion, lively debate and pursuit of knowledge in a manner that respects each of us as individuals.

The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service and engagement. A collaborative and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University.

Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions.

Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

AREC 428: Agricultural Business Management

Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

Need Help? Rams Take Care of Rams

Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time. Always feel free to come and talk to me; I will always make myself available to help connect you with any resources you need. CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs or alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others please know there is help available. Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Contact 970-491-6053 or go to <http://health.colostate.edu>. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, tell someone by calling 970-491-1350 (or visit <http://safety.colostate.edu/tell-someone.aspx>) to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources. Rams take care of Rams.

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy {Section 1.6} of the Colorado State University General Catalog, the Student Conduct Code, and University Principles of Community.

Please refer to The University Principles of Community found on page 9 of this syllabus.

Please refer to our cheating and plagiarism policy found on the Canvas homepage and page __ of this syllabus.

Student Conduct Code: <http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code.aspx#conduct>

Colorado State University General Catalog: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/>

Classroom Etiquette

No animals are allowed in the classroom except those defined in the CSU policy regarding SERVICE animals (see pages _____ of this syllabus). No emotional support animals are allowed in class.

Please silence your phone and other electronic devices during class.

Please be quiet while in class. It can be difficult to hear in a large classroom and even quiet talking can be very disruptive to other students who are trying to listen.

Please do not read newspapers, text, play games, or listen to music during class. It may not impact your learning experience, but it is distracting to others in the room.

AREC 428: Agricultural Business Management

Exam and Assignment Policy

Everyone will receive access to exams and Assignments on the same day. I encourage you to make your best effort to submit all assignments and exams on time, but I understand that sometimes circumstances arise that are beyond your control. Students that miss an exam due to illness, family emergencies, or other University approved excuses will be able to make up exams by special arrangement.

Please note that assignments submitted late without prior approval will not be eligible for full credit. Exceptions are EXTREMELY limited.

For athletes and others with schedule conflicts; prior arrangements must be made.

Students who use alternative testing at RDS can contact me prior to the exam to make arrangements and sign applicable paperwork.

Please contact me ASAP if you miss an exam (preferably the day of the exam)

Title IX: Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment:

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety.

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

-Emergency Response 911

-Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350

-Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

Please Visit: <http://oeo.colostate.edu/title-ix-sexual-assault> for more information.

AREC 428: Agricultural Business Management

Service Animals in the Classroom

This course will follow all of the policies regarding service animal access to the classroom. The full university policy may be found here: <http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/policy.aspx?id=747> .

POLICY STATEMENT

The University will not discriminate against individuals with disabilities who use service dogs, nor, subject to the terms of this Policy, deny those persons access to programs, services and facilities of the University. In addition, only under certain limited conditions as stated in this policy, the University may permit an individual with a documented disability to have an Emotional Support Animal in a University residential facility. Pets are not permitted in any University building, including residence halls, except for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other veterinary facilities in accordance with their rules and policies, or when otherwise specially allowed with advance approval from Environmental Health Services for bona fide academic or University business purposes.

Service Dogs

Subject to some limitations, a service dog may accompany an individual with a disability throughout campus, such as in classrooms, recreational facilities and campus residences. It is strongly encouraged, but not required, that a service dog be identifiable to others through a visible signifier (e.g., vest or harness). Individuals with a disability who require a service dog in the classroom should contact Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) for assistance with accommodations.

Emotional Support Animals

An emotional support animal (ESA) is one that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. ESAs are not permitted in university buildings, except in the rare situation where use of an ESA in University housing is approved in advance by the University upon the submission of appropriate documentation, as set forth in this policy.

ESAs are not permitted in non-residential buildings such as classrooms, laboratories, business offices, recreational facilities, dining halls, or the Lory Student Center; they are limited to the disabled individual's residence in a University residence hall, apartment, or other housing unit, and permitted only with prior approval.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

We take the issue of academic integrity very seriously in this course. You are expected to do your own work and to not access notes or the web during an exam, copy from someone else's exam or to provide exam answers to another student during an exam. We reserve the right to proctor all exams and will take actions to ensure that all students are following this policy.

AREC 428: Agricultural Business Management

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one's own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source" (CSU Policies and Guiding Principles, 2017-2018).

Our motivation for rigorously enforcing a no-plagiarism policy is twofold: First, plagiarism is a form of theft. Taking someone else's words or ideas without attribution is stealing someone else's work. Second, copying someone else's work does not fulfill the purpose of the assignment, which is for you to develop critical thinking and analysis skills. You demonstrate this by presenting your own, new, synthesis and analysis in your writing. Simply copying or paraphrasing from source materials does not demonstrate this, however insightful the source(s) may be. Good writing generates new knowledge. This should be your goal in this class, in other courses at CSU and in your career after you leave here.

In this course all written work will be spot checked for plagiarism issues by both instructors and originality checking software such as VeriCite. If you are caught plagiarizing materials you will receive a 0 for the assignment/exam/project, and depending upon the severity of the offense, an F in the course. All examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty and will be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services for additional disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook under the heading "academic integrity/Misconduct" (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/>).

Canvas Email System Utilization

Using the University's systems or networks for personal gain; for example, by selling access to your eID or to university systems or networks, or by performing work for profit with university resources (e.g. selling your notes or promoting a personal agenda) in a manner not authorized by the University is strictly forbidden within the CSU Code of Conduct and also CSU's policy for Acceptable Use for Computing and Networking Resources. All cases of this type of code violation will be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Case Management and dealt with following CSU legal counsel guidance.