

AREC 605
Agricultural Production and Cost Analysis
Spring 2019 (2 credits)

Location and Meeting Times

Mon & Wed 2:00–4:00pm, Rm. 111 Walnut (Begins Jan 23, Ends Mar 13).

Contact Information & Office Hours

Instructor: Daniel Mooney, Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics
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Phone: (970) 491-4180
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00–2:00pm or by appointment

Course Overview

The catalog description for this course reads: “Empirical application and analysis of production and cost issues in the agricultural and natural resource sectors.” In practice, it will be organized to a lecture-discussion format and student participation will be critical to learning the material.

The course objectives are to strengthen student competencies in this area by: (1) linking their current stock of economic knowledge and methodological skills to research topics and questions in the field of production economics, (2) providing hands-on experience in the empirical analysis of production data as they relate to these research topics and questions, and (3) encouraging exposure to a breadth of relevant applications and approaches through participating in classroom discussions of relevant journal articles.

Course Pre-Requisites

Pre-requisites for this course include AREC 506 and AREC 535/ECON 535, or their equivalent. Students wishing to enroll who require an exception to these pre-requisites must initiate contact with the instructor via email and provide a short description any equivalent experience.

Course Materials

Textbook. Debertin, D.L. 2012. *Agricultural Production Economics*. Uknowledge open source textbook. Agricultural Economics Textbook Gallery. 1.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/agecon_textbooks/1

Supplemental readings. See the Canvas course site for updates throughout the semester.

Software. We will make use of statistical packages such as STATA and R.

Grading Policies

Course grades will be based on several areas of evaluation, including problem sets, participation, and examinations. These components will be weighted as follows:

Problem sets:	30% (anticipate 3-4)
Participation:	30% (weekly article discussions)
Final exam:	<u>40%</u>
Total:	100%

Final grades will be assigned based on point total accumulations as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = <60%. Ranges for grade categories may be adjusted downward but will not be raised. Pluses and minuses are awarded at the instructors' discretion.

Learning Outcomes

The course has three major learning outcomes. Upon the successful completion of the course:

1. Students will master foundational production economics concepts, including input-output models, input-input models, output-output models, input demand and output supply models.
2. Students will have the necessary skills to empirically analyze the above production economics concepts including (but not limited to) production functions, cost functions, and profit functions.
3. Given a current problem in agricultural production economics, students will be able to identify an appropriate conceptual and analytical framework for further empirical investigation.

Accommodations

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class due to a disability or chronic health condition, please make an appointment with me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner (that is, at least one week) prior to implementation. A verifying letter of accommodation from Resources for Disabled Students is required before any accommodation can be provided.

Academic Integrity

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found on the Student' Responsibilities page of the CSU General Catalog (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/#academic-integrity>) and in the Student Conduct Code (<https://resolutioncenter.colostate.edu/conduct-code/>). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in the course and a report to the Office of Student Resolution Center. Violations can also result

in failing the assignment, failing the course, or expulsion from CSU. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

“Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding 'credit be given where credit is due.’”

CSU Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism. <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism/plagiarismoverview.cfm>. Accessed, January 15, 2009.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism. It includes doing your own reading and studying. It also involves regular class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students.

Principles of Community

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.

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.

Mental Health

Need Help? 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 at by calling 970.491.1350 to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper

resources (<http://supportandsafety.colostate.edu/tellsomeone>). Rams take care of Rams. Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.

Sexual Assault and Violence Elimination

CSU's Student Sexual Harassment and Violence policy, following national guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, requires that professors follow CSU policy as a "mandatory reporter" of any personal disclosure of sexual harassment, abuse, and/or violence related experiences or incidents shared with the professor in person, via email, and/or in classroom papers or homework exercises. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of personal relational abuse, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

While professors are often able to help students locate appropriate channels of assistance on campus (e.g., see the CSU Health Network link below), disclosure by the student to the professor requires that the professor inform appropriate CSU channels to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, even if the student requests that the disclosure not be shared.

For counseling support and assistance, please see The CSU HEALTH NETWORK, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. And, The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential resource for students that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.