ADVANCED FARM MANAGEMENT
Agricultural Economics 411
Fall 2019

INSTRUCTOR: Nathan Thompson
OFFICE: KRAN 635
PHONE: 765-494-0593
EMAIL: thomp530@purdue.edu

LECTURE: Monday, Wednesday 10:30am-11:20am SMTH 118
LAB: Monday, Wednesday 3:30pm-5:20pm FORS 216
OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday 2:30pm-3:30pm KRAN 635
If these office hours do not work with your schedule, email me to set up a time that works for you.

BLACKBOARD: We will use Blackboard for this class.

1. Course Objective

Integrate and apply principles from management, strategy, finance, operations, risk management, marketing, and human resources required to successfully manage a farm business.

2. These objectives will be accomplished in part by:

   a) Reading and studying the methods used for making important farm management decisions.

   b) Practice skills of critical thinking, asking questions, and integrating information from various sources to solve problems.

   c) Observing farmers in action - thinking, solving problems, making decisions, and attaining the goals and objectives they most desire.

3. Reference Materials

Selected extension publications, journal articles, magazine stories, and newsletters will be provided as course reference material.

4. Prerequisites

A basic course in Farm Management (AGEC 31000 or equivalent), Introductory Accounting (MGMT 20000 or 20010) and a general understanding of production, marketing, finance, and personnel management. Since AGEC 411 is a capstone experience, there are things you have learned in previous courses that you are expected to draw upon. Just because an item is not discussed in class, does not mean that it will not appear in an assignment.
5. Grading

Your course grade will be a combination of quizzes, exercises/homeworks, and guest interview participation. The percentage of the total points received in each category is weighted by the indicated percentage to determine your overall course score.

a) Quizzes/Attendance – 25%
We will have regular quizzes covering assigned reading materials. These quizzes will serve to both (i) ensure you are keeping up with reading assignments and (ii) to make sure you come to class. Quizzes may take on a variety of different formats throughout the semester. There are no makeup quizzes.

b) Exercises/Homeworks – 50%
There will be a number of exercises/homework assignments during the semester and the format of these assignments will vary. Due dates will be provided when assigned. In order to be fair to students who turn in their assignments when due, no late assignments will be accepted unless you have made previous arrangements with me.

c) Guest Questions & Interview Summaries – 25%
There will be two assignments associated with each of our guest visits. First, you will be asked to submit a question or topic you want to have discussed to Blackboard for each guest. These questions are due by 10:30 am on the day of the guest visit.

The second assignment is submitting a short paragraph to Blackboard summarizing your take-aways from the visit. Grades for these assignments are based on providing a well written summary that demonstrates critical thinking and contains complete sentences. Summaries are due by Sunday, 11:59 pm following the guest visit. Late submissions will not be accepted. If you are not present for the guest visit, the score for the summary will be zero.

I will compute final grades for each student using the above weights. I will allocate the final grade using the following scale:

- A 90% or higher
- B 80%-89%
- C 70%-79%
- D 60%-69%
- F less than 60%

If necessary to have a reasonable grade distribution, I may lower the above scale. In no case will I raise it. You should keep track of your grades. I will post grades on the Blackboard site. If you see a mistake in your recorded grade, let me know as soon as possible.
6. Grade Changes

If you have a question concerning the grading of a quiz or assignment, write your question on a separate sheet of paper and give it along with the paper in question to me or come to my office to discuss the grading question within one week following the return of the assignment.

7. Professionalism

A number of farm/agribusiness managers will visit with you in this course. These are outstanding managers. One of these people may become your employer. Regardless of what you think of their management, their goals, their activities, their success, or their presentation, BE POLITE and LOOK PROFESSIONAL. Treat our guests with respect, be interested in their problems, and find out why they made, or are making various decisions. Ask questions – LOTS OF THEM. The best way to indicate interest is to ask questions. Remember, these people are taking time out of their busy schedule to visit with us.

8. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern.

University policy on academic misconduct is clear - academic dishonesty in any form is strictly prohibited. Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Penalties are severe and may include failure on the exam, paper, or project, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the University. Academic dishonesty includes citing someone else's work as your own and using unauthorized aids during exams. Each student enrolled in AGEC 411 is encouraged to study and work exercises with others. While working together is encouraged, the final work that you submit is to be prepared by you and be your own original work. A narrative answer that is the same as another student is copying. It is not your original work and a violation of University policy.

Academic dishonesty in AGEC 411 will be prosecuted to the limit of reason (See Purdue University Regulations, Student Conduct, Part 5). Interpersonal relationships must be built on a base of integrity and trust. If you are unsure whether an action you are considering constitutes academic dishonesty, seek clarification from your instructor.

Purdue Honors Pledge

“As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue.”
9. **Special Needs**

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

If you have a disability that requires academic adjustments, please make an appointment with me to discuss your needs. Please note that university policy requires all students with disabilities to register with Adaptive Programs in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided.

10. **Mental Health Statement**

Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)-494-6995 and http://www.purdue.edu/caps/ during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

11. **Campus Emergencies & Illness**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the my control. To get information about changes in this course because of a campus emergency see the course web page: http://www.itap.purdue.edu/learning/tools/blackboard/. If you are ill, it is best for you to take care of yourself in a way that will allow you to recover as soon as possible.

11. **Additional Information**

Additional information regarding Purdue University policy and procedures can be found in the Fall 2019 Syllabus Letter which I have provided on Blackboard for you to review.