



South Central College

AGEC 1100 Introduction to Agricultural Economics

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	This course is an introduction to agricultural economics. Economic concepts of the food, fiber, and fuel industry will be explored through problem solving exercises and graphical analysis. Consumer and business behavior will be analyzed under various market and regulatory conditions, with major focus spent on determining changes to equilibrium of aggregate supply and demand curves. Both microeconomic and macroeconomic factors will be defined and discussed in relation to global and local agribusiness value chains, including many factors affecting farmers in the American Midwest. (Prerequisites: None)
Total Credits	3
Total Hours	64

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	2/32
Lab	1/32

Pre/Corequisites

None

Institutional Core Competencies

Critical and Creative Thinking - Students will be able to demonstrate purposeful thinking with the goal of using a creative process for developing and building upon ideas and/or the goal of using a critical process for the analyzing and evaluating of ideas.

Course Competencies

1. Describe the scope of agriculture, food, and natural resources using economic terminology.

Learning Objectives

Construct a definition of agricultural economics incorporating concepts of resource scarcity, opportunity cost, and marginal analysis.

Explore the agribusiness value chain and its effects on farmers, businesses, and consumers.

Demonstrate knowledge of financial structure by evaluating the state of student's own assets and liabilities.

2. Compare and contrast microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Learning Objectives

Categorize factors impacting major agricultural commodities as microeconomic or macroeconomic in nature. Determine how events at the micro and macro level affect domestic and international food, fiber, and fuel production.

3. Relate individual consumer behavior to aggregate demand.

Learning Objectives

Determine how utility and budget constraint impact consumer decision making, including the student's own economic decision making.

Sum individual demand curves and graph aggregate demand.

Illustrate changes in demand and changes in quantity demanded using historical and modern agricultural examples.

Calculate elasticities of demand.

4. Synthesize how business behavior and input allocation affect aggregate supply.

Learning Objectives

Classify input used in agricultural production as land, labor, capital, or management.

Graph marginal and average production and determine points of least cost input allocation and profit maximization.

5. Demonstrate the characteristics of perfect competition using market equilibrium price and quantity.

Learning Objectives

Give agricultural examples for each of the conditions of perfect competition.

Graph market equilibrium under perfect condition.

Illustrate graphically the impacts of market forces (i.e. shifts in demand and/or supply) on product price and quantity.

6. Demonstrate the characteristics of imperfect competition using market equilibrium price and quantity.

Learning Objectives

Give examples of agribusinesses operating under imperfect competition.

Illustrate graphically the impact of imperfect competition on consumer and producer surplus.

7. Analyze the role of governmental policies in the food, fuel, and fiber industries.

Learning Objectives

Link natural resource and environmental economics to agricultural practices and policy.

Identify major regulatory and legislative policies that affect the agribusinesses, such as farms and agricultural cooperatives.

Analyze the effects of the Farm Bill on consumers, farmers, and intermediate agribusinesses.

Explain the development of cooperatives in the United States, particularly within the agricultural industry.

8. Characterize monetary policy and its impact on agriculture.

Learning Objectives

Diagram effects of contractionary and expansionary monetary policy.

Trace money from the treasury through the federal reserve system to banks and other financial institutions to consumers.

9. Assess the impact of international agricultural trade on student's daily life.

Learning Objectives

Conclude how strength or weakness of United States currency affects import and export markets.

Investigate the breadth of international agricultural trade, including the amount of agricultural exports and the variety of imported food, fuel, and fiber consumed daily.

10. Relate agricultural economic and management concepts to student's individual, family, regional, national, and global economic condition.

Learning Objectives

Synthesize connections between major economic theory and student's personal agricultural experiences.
Discuss critically local and international current events in agricultural economics and management.

SCC Accessibility Statement

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

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