Agricultural Economics (AECN) 452/852

Agricultural Finance

Spring 2017

Contact Information

Instructor: J.R. Stokes

Office: 308B Filley Hall

Phone: 402.472.1742

Email: jeffrey.stokes@unl.edu

Office Hours: TBD

Course Description

Principles and concepts of financial management of farm and agribusiness firms developed. Various strategies for acquiring and using capital resources by the individual firm explored. Institutions providing the sources of agricultural credit are individually studied.

Prerequisites

AECN 201 or 4 hrs accounting

Textbook

Barry, P., and P. Ellinger, "Financial Management in Agriculture, 7th Ed., Pearson Education, 2012.

Calculator

A financial calculator (e.g. the HP 10bII+ or the TI BAII Plus) will prove indispensable.

Course Management System

Canvas will be used for posting course material such as homework assignments, Excel files, and other information about the course including any announcements.

Instructional Procedure

There will be two formal lectures each week. The remainder of your instruction will come in the form of homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and class engagement.

Homework Assignments

Approximately 6-8 homework assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. A hard (i.e. paper) copy must be turned in on the due date and no late assignments will be accepted. Students are encouraged to work with a small group to complete the assignments - this does not mean you may copy! Make sure to include all group members' names on the hard copy to be turned in.

Quizzes

Approximately 4-6 quizzes are planned for the semester. All quizzes are unannounced and cannot be made up if missed. However, your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Exams

There will be three exams over the course of the semester and one during finals week. The final exam is not comprehensive and will only include material covered after the third exam. Exact dates for the exams will be provided at a later date.

Engagement

The class engagement component of the course is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they are engaged in learning course material. Students can demonstrate they are engaged in a number of ways including: regularly attending class, asking thoughtful questions, answering my questions, etc. By contrast, the fastest way for students to demonstrate that they are not engaged in learning course material is to not show up to class, complain about points or how things are graded, texting during class, etc.

Grading

Exams will count for 40%, homework 30%, quizzes 20%, and class engagement 10%. The customary percentages will guarantee the appropriate grade (e.g. A: 90%+, B: 80%-89%, etc.). However, the final grade distribution may be adjusted depending on overall class performance. In short, if you want an "A" in this class, finish the course with at least 90%. After any grade distribution adjustments, it may not take 90%, but this will guarantee you an "A".

Communication

Canvas and/or your UNL email address will be used for all course correspondence. You may, however, email me from an alternative account, but if I need to reach you, I will use the email address that UNL has on file for you.

Other Information

While I do not take attendance, your grade will be positively impacted by your regular presence in class. As a result, you are encouraged to attend all lectures. Feel free to stop by my office for assistance at any time and I will make every effort to assist you. Email is one of the better ways of getting in touch with me if you not want to make a special trip to my office or if you need assistance after regular business hours.

Academic Honesty

I expect a level of integrity consistent with University policy. If I find you have cheated on an exam, you will receive an "F" for the course.