AECN/ASCI 482 Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program: Policy

Departments of Agricultural Economics and Animal Science College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources University of Nebraska-Lincoln Spring 2017

Course Details

AECN/ASCI 482, Section 001 Credit Hours: 1 Monday, 3:00 - 4:50 p.m. Filley Hall 210

Prerequisite: Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program, ASCI 395, and ASCI 481

Contact Information

Instructor
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Course Objectives

This course is designed to prepare Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars program participants to be leaders in the beef industry in addressing important public policy issues. The course objectives are to:

- ldentify, analyze, and understand public policy issues affecting the beef industry.
- Attend and participate in the Cattle Industry Convention to observe and gain knowledge of the policy making process within a beef industry organization and policy stakeholder group.
- · Understand public policy development and decision-making processes in various policy arenas.
- · Identify and understand different policy stakeholder groups in the beef industry and their values, principles, and preferences.
- Develop appropriate policy action strategies to address public policy issues relevant to the beef industry.

Course Materials

The course will rely on regular readings from popular press, trade journals, academic studies, government reports, and other resources, including the web to address various policy issues covered in the course. The readings, or links to the readings, will be available on Blackboard at *my.unl.edu*.

Course Evaluation

Grades will be assigned based on a weighted average of each student's performance in the following areas:

Discussion and participation in class and on Blackboard	20%
Participation in the Cattle Industry Convention	20%
Individual written assignments	20%
Team report on policy issue analysis	20%
Team report on policy action strategy	20%

Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following schedule:

Weighted Average Score	Letter Grade	Weighted Average Score	Letter Grade
97-100	A+	77-79	C+
93-96	Α	73-76	С
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	В	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
		0-59	F

<u>Discussion and Participation</u>. A key part of the course will focus on participation in class discussions of the various public policy issues affecting the beef industry. The discussions will take place both in the classroom and on Blackboard. Students' grades for discussion and participation will reflect their effort to be involved in the discussions and their contributions to those discussions in both forums. Meaningful participation in this course includes 1) responding to relevant policy questions posed by the instructor or by other students; 2) contributing questions that generate meaningful discussion by others in the class; 3) providing useful information or other resources relevant to a policy issue addressed in class; or 4) discussing the relevant policy developments of the day at the state, national, or international level.

<u>Participation in the Cattle Industry Convention</u>. Students are required to attend and participate in the Cattle Industry Convention. This year's annual convention will be in San Diego, California on January 27-30. The convention and accompanying trade show gives students an opportunity to observe and participate in meetings of education, marketing, and policy committees as well as visits with various industry participants and representatives. Students will be responsible for participating fully in the educational sessions, committee meetings, and other opportunities and will be responsible for reporting their experiences and findings to the class.

Individual Written Assignments. The written assignments will include various opportunities for students to explore and analyze policy issues. Some assignments will ask students to research and examine the scope of policy issues. Other assignments may ask students to research and develop brief reports on various policy issues or policy stakeholders. In the policy development process, written briefs provide the basic understanding of an issue, the potential impact of an issue, the stakeholders involved in an issue, and the policy positions surrounding an issue. These are "brief" reports, generally not more than one to

two pages that represent the types of information used by policy-makers, interest groups, or other stakeholders to track and discuss the various policy issues.

<u>Team Report on Policy Issue Analysis</u>. A team report will be prepared on analysis of a selected policy issue selected from class discussion, supplemental reading, and policy issues addressed at the NCBA Annual Convention.

<u>Team Report on Policy Action Strategy</u>. A team report will be prepared to identify and present a strategy for policy action on a selected policy issue taken from the issues discussed and reported in class.

Attendance. Regular attendance is expected and is necessary to perform well in the discussion and participation section of the course. Students are responsible for knowing the material presented and discussed during the class meetings and on Blackboard. Any student who cannot attend a class meeting is expected to obtain all of the class materials, readings, assignments from Blackboard and obtain any notes from fellow classmates.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty outlined in Section 4.2 of University's Student Code of Conduct (http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/). Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for clarification of these guidelines if they have questions or concerns. The Department of Agricultural Economics has a written policy defining academic dishonesty, the potential sanctions for incidents of academic dishonesty, and the appeal process for students facing potential sanctions. The Department also has a policy regarding potential appeals of final course grades. These policies are available for review on the department's website: (http://agecon.unl.edu/undergraduate).

In this course, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any student directly or indirectly involved in any form of academic dishonesty related to the class may receive a grade of "F" for the assignment, the quiz or exam, or the course.

Special Needs

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Emergency Response

The following is provided for student information in the event of an emergency:

<u>Fire Alarm (or other evacuation)</u> - In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.

<u>Tornado Warning</u> - When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter.

Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.

Active Shooter

- Evacuate If there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.
- Hide out If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
- Take action As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.

<u>UNL Alert</u> - Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: http://unlalert.unl.edu.

<u>Additional Emergency Procedures</u> - Additional information is posted on Blackboard in the Information folder for AECN 345 as well as at http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency Procedures Quicklist.pdf.

Course Schedule

The course will meet from 3:00 - 4:50 p.m. on scheduled Mondays. This allows time for class discussion of multiple and complex policy issues that can't always be completed in 1 hour and recognizes that we will not be meeting every week of the semester due to travel and instructor conflicts. There will not be a final exam, but final reports will be due and presented on April 18.

The tentative schedule for the semester is below, with guest speakers identified and tentatively scheduled. These plans are subject to change, but this provides some planning for the semester:

January 9 - Session 1

Lecture 1

Assignment #1 – due January 20

January 16 - MLK Day - No class meeting

January 23 - Session 2

Pete McClymont, Nebraska Cattlemen Trip logistics and discussion

January 30 - Session 3

Lecture 2 and assignment 1 review Trip logistics and discussion Assignment #2 – due February 10

February 1-4

Class trip to 2015 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show

February 6 - No class meeting

February 13 - Session 4

Lecture 3 and assignment 2 review

February 20 - Session 5

Lecture 4

Review of national policy issues

February 27 - No class meeting

March 6 - Session 6

Policy analysis

Dawn Caldwell, Nebraska Beef Council

March 13 - Session 7

Team policy analysis reports due

Policy development

March 20 - Spring Break - No class meeting

March 27 - Session 8

Tom Field, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program Laura Field, Nebraska Cattlemen

April 3 - No class meeting

April 10 - Session 9

Terry Hejny, Nebraska LEAD Program Craig Buescher, University of Nebraska

Foundation

April 17 - Session 10 - Final class meeting Team policy strategy reports and

presentations