MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 634
CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:

Types and Systems of Farming and Agribusiness

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Includes a general statistical analysis of U.S. agriculture with attention to major agricultural regions of the nation and types of farming areas of Kentucky. Special emphasis is given to the organization of West Kentucky and regional farms and agribusinesses. Field trips, interviews, and financial analysis of successful firms. Prerequisites: AGR 130, AGR 330, AGR 433, or permission of instructor.

*To receive graduate credit for this course, a student must be admitted to graduate studies prior to registering for the course.*

III. PURPOSE:

To provide students in Agriculture and other disciplines with a basic knowledge of the types of Farming and Agribusinesses in Kentucky.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To develop an awareness and understanding of farming in the U.S. To observe the organization and management on a selection of individual farms and agribusinesses.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

A. Resources that affect the agricultural industry.
B. Major types of farming systems in the U.S.
C. Types and analysis of various agribusiness firms, including cooperatives.
D. Major farming areas of Kentucky, the region, the U.S., and the world.
E. Agribusiness and farm visits and manager interviews.
   1. Class reviews and critiques
   2. Written reports
F. Agriculture Field Days and Farm Tours.
VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

A. Journal – students will be expected to keep a neat, thorough journal of all class activities

B. Classroom activity – lecture, discussion, reports, and critiques

C. Other information
   1. Obtaining assignments and the pursuant work is the responsibility of each student.
   2. Field trips will be highly organized and formally conducted with students performing an active role.
   3. Conditions of this syllabus may be changed and announced at any regularly scheduled class meeting.
   4. **Those students taking the course for graduate credit will be required to submit a paper on a research project above that expected of undergraduate students.**

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

A. Field trips
B. Economic analysis of farms and agribusinesses

VIII. **RESOURCES:**

A. Large three ring notebook to use as journal binder.
B. Small notebook to keep field notes on to transfer to journal.

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Tests and Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research reports</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>300</td>
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Letter grades are derived from the weighted average of the points as explained above:

- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- Below 60 = E

Extra work to raise grade at end of semester is not allowed. Students are advised to keep up as class progresses.
Make-up of announced exams and final is allowed. This make-up must be initiated and arranged by the student at the discretion of the instructor and completed within two weeks of original date scheduled.

All missed field trips and/or make-up activities will lower the grade received in this class.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

A. None
B. Related readings: Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship

XIII. PREREQUISITES:

Prerequisites: AGR 130, AGR 330, AGR 433, or permission of instructor.

XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with
disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. **MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY**

The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are a familiar and often necessary form of communication for students.

It shall be the policy of the School that no cell phone usage shall be allowed in class and/or labs without the prior consent of the course instructor. This shall include verbal calling, incoming calls, email, text messaging, and use of cell phone calculators on tests and quizzes.

Cell phones must be kept off and out of sight (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters).

Should a student’s cell phone be visible, ring, or other form of unauthorized usage that is interruptive to the class or lab, the student may be asked to leave class and not return for that class/lab period.

Upon prior consent of the instructor, a student may obtain permission to have their phone on in case of an emergency or in critical family situations.

This policy also includes pagers and other electronic equipment such as blackberries and/or computers/laptops.