SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 633  CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:

Production Economics for Agriculture

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The techniques and principles of production theory as applied to the organization and allocation of resources in agricultural production. (Spring, odd years)

*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 graduate students in Agriculture with a working knowledge of the basic economic principles and their practical application to Agribusiness.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed for graduate students in Agriculture desiring knowledge of those economic principles, which influence decision making at the farm firm level. Introductory courses in Economic Theory and/or Agricultural Economics recommended, but not required. The primary focus will be on those economic principles necessary to optimize production and maximize profits. A basic knowledge of the physical production processes within agriculture will be utilized. Differential calculus techniques will be necessary, but will be taught as part of the class.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:


C. The concept of costs, opportunity costs and capital restrictions, absolute advantage, comparative advantage and more derivatives. Total and average cost concepts. Problems.
D. Profit maximization MC = MR. Solutions to production functions involving costs and returns. Problems.
E. Regulation of monopoly and price discrimination.
F. Farm tax management and records.
G. Interest computation, discounting, future value, present value, amortization with equal and unequal payments.
H. Budgeting and Linear programming concepts.
I. Statistical techniques in agriculture.
J. Review and final exam.

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

A. Three lectures per week, with unannounced quizzes, 3 major exams and a final exam. Practical applications of economic principles to agriculture will be stressed.
B. Assignments – oral and extemporaneous.
C. Classroom activity- lecture, discussion, and participatory projects.
D. Other Information:
   1. Obtaining assignments and the pursuant work is the responsibility of the individual student.
   2. Conditions of this syllabus may be changes and announced at any class meeting.
   3. Every effort will be made to inform the student of course expectations. Trickery and subterfuge will be avoided. Students are encouraged to consult with the teacher on academic progress or any other matter affecting class performance. Extra group or individual study periods will be scheduled if requested by the student(s).
   4. Final exams as scheduled in class schedule bulletin.
   5. **Class attendance is important!** Lecture material covered will be the subject of quizzes and/or examinations. **Lack of knowledge of subject matter because of non-class attendance does not get sympathy from the instructor.**

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

A. Laboratory assignments
B. Independent use of various software and computers

VIII. **RESOURCES:**

A. Hand held/pocket calculator
B. Ruler or straight edge and writing material
C. Access to dual disk drive, 512K or greater IBM compatible computer
IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Tests and Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Announced Exams (comprehensive)</td>
<td>30% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unannounced quizzes and Lab assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (comprehensive)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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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 the original date scheduled.

All exams and final not taken when scheduled will be lowered by 10 points!

No make-up of unannounced quizzes and in class laboratory assignments is permitted! Quizzes and laboratory assignments not completed will receive a grade of zero (0)!

X. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

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

Attendance records will be kept and regular attendance is expected. Unannounced quizzes are usually over the material covered at the last class period.

XI. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)
Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or
other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

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:


XIII. PREREQUISITES:

None

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.