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Agricultural Economics Collection Development Policy

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Agricultural Economics Collection Development Policy

University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Rebecca Bernthal, Liaison Librarian, December, 2009
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I. GENERAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Agricultural Economics Department is part of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CASNR). The faculty has appointments in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), the Agricultural Research Division (ARD), and/or the Cooperative Extension Division (CED).

The Department was established in 1909 as the Department of Agronomy and Farm Management. In 1911 it was renamed as the Department of Farm Management and then in 1919 became the Department of Rural Economics. Since 1949 the Department has been known as the Department of Agricultural Economics. By 1920 the Department offered 13 courses for undergraduates and graduate students. The first master's student graduated in 1921 and the first Ph.D. student graduated in 1964. The extension component of the Department, started in 1917, also has a long tradition of service to the state.

The Department is actively engaged in teaching research and extension activities with six program focus areas:

- **Agribusiness**
- **Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization**
- **Farm Management and Marketing**
- **Natural Resource and Environment**
- **Community and Social Capital**
- **Trade and Development**

There are 20 full-time faculty members in the Department, three of whom are extension educators. The faculty have a wide variety of research interests including: Microeconomics, Economics of Production, International Economics, Political Economy, Development Economics, Regulatory Economics, Agricultural Production Economics, Environmental and Resource Economics, Water Resource Economics, Agribusiness, Agribusiness Management, Risk Management, Farm Management, Ranch Management, Irrigation Management, Price Risk Management, Sustainability, Sustainable Agriculture, Water Law, Agricultural Law, Environment and Natural Resource Law, Conservation, Carbon, Climate Change, Human Dimension of Natural Resources, Ecosystems and Environment, Water Quality, Trade and the Environment, Public Policy, Water Policy, Water Pricing, Agricultural Policy, Trade Policy, Agricultural Development, Entrepreneur/ Business Development, Community Development, Beginning Farmers, Agricultural Finance, Crop Insurance, Custom Rates, Dairy and Crops Profitability, Agricultural Productivity Analysis, Marketing: Livestock Marketing, Agricultural

Marketing, Grain Marketing and Trade, Land Market and Land Use Issues, Agricultural Cooperatives, Technology Assessment, Irrigation Technology Choice

The Agricultural Economics Department, beyond its research publications, produces and maintains a variety of other publications, reports and websites including: Cornhusker Economics, Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments Report, (<http://www.agecon.unl.edu/realestate.html>), RURALS: Review of Undergraduate Research in Agricultural and Life Sciences, Center for Applied Rural Innovation – CARI (<http://cari.unl.edu>), Center for Agri-Food Industrial Organization – CAFIO (<http://cafio.unl.edu/>), and a variety of other agriculture related resources of statistical and economic information.

The CARI and CAFIO centers provide a link between the work of the Department to the greater agricultural community in the state and beyond.

Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI)

This Center focuses on helping rural residents, small town residents and producers find innovative ways to run their communities, farms, ranches and businesses. The mission statement of the center indicates it is “to help create a rural community and agricultural structure that is economically viable, environmentally sound, socially acceptable and sustainable into the future”. Areas of endeavor include: leadership, sustainable agriculture, and economic and community development through education and research.

Current active CARI programs include:

■ ***Nebraska Rural Poll***

Since 1996, the Nebraska Rural Poll has served as the aggregated voice of rural Nebraskans for policy issues. Poll findings are distributed to a variety of state and local leaders to help facilitate good policy and decision making.

■ ***Sustainable Agriculture***

Sustainable Agriculture is economically profitable, environmentally sound and socially viable for the long term. Nebraska’s economic dependence on agriculture makes sustainability even more important.

■ **NebraskaEDGE**

NebraskaEDGE is the umbrella organization for rural entrepreneurial training programs hosted by local communities, organizations and associations. Since 1993, the program has helped nearly 2,250 individuals, small business owners and their partners start and improve their businesses.

■ ***Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska***

Started in 2006, Buy Fresh, Buy Local Nebraska is an outreach and marketing initiative to promote and support local foods.

■ ***Nebraska Cooperative Development Center***

The Nebraska Cooperative Development Center (NCDC) is Nebraska's nonprofit center for cooperative based business development. NCDC provides education, training and technical assistance to cooperatively owned businesses.

Center for Agri-Food Industrial Organization (CAFIO)

Founded in 2001, this center's mission is "dedicated to impartial economic analysis of the structure, conduct, and performance of the agricultural and food industry. Its global mission is to bring together scholars from around the world who share an interest in the analysis of horizontal and vertical relationships within the food supply chain and their implications for competition and welfare. Its local mission is to conduct and disseminate timely economic analysis of agricultural and food industrial issues of critical importance to farmers and ranchers in Nebraska, train students and other professionals in agricultural and food industrial organization, and serve as a point of contact between research faculty and the public at large". CAFIO produces two e-journals: *Journal of Food & Agricultural Industrial Organization* and *RURALS: Review of Undergraduate Research in Agricultural and Life Sciences*.

CAFIO also supports a Master's degree and Ph.D. program with a specialty in Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization:

Master's Degree:

The minimum requirements for an M.S. degree in agricultural economics with a specialty in agro-industrial economics include 7 credits of the common core courses that apply to all students in agricultural economics, plus 9 credits in industrial economics including 6 credits of thesis research. A minimum of 30 credits is needed to complete the requirements for this M.S. in agricultural economics.

Common Core Courses:

AECN 817 - Introduction to Econometrics

AECN 873 - Microeconomic Theory

AECN 821 - Orientation to Research

Industrial Economics Courses:

AECN 812 - Organization and Performance of Agricultural Markets

AECN 901B - Agricultural Industrial Organization I

AECN 902B - Agricultural Industrial Organization II

Ph.D. Degree:

The minimum requirements for a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics with a specialty in agricultural and food industrial organization includes 21 credits of the common core courses that apply to all students in agricultural economics, 12 credits in 900-level industrial organization and the dissertation, and 9 credits in 900-level courses other than industrial economics. A minimum of 90 credits is needed to complete the requirements for this Ph.D. in agricultural economics.

Common Core Courses:

ECON 833 - History of Economic Thought

ECON 957 - Econometrics I

ECON 958 - Econometrics II

ECON 973 - Advanced Microeconomic Theory I
 ECON 974 - Advanced Macroeconomic Theory I
 ECON 983 - Advanced Microeconomic Theory II
 ECON 985 - Advanced Macroeconomic Theory II

Industrial Organization Courses:

ECON 835 - Market Competition
 AECN 812 - Organization and Performance of Agricultural Markets
 AECN 901B - Agricultural Industrial Organization I
 AECN 902B - Agricultural Industrial Organization II
 ECON 927 - Seminar in Industrial Organization
 AECN 927 - Seminar on Research Applications Integrating Economic Theory
 and Quantitative Methodology

The Department of Agricultural Economics offers a B.S. degree as well as several masters degrees and a Ph.D.

Undergraduate Degree Program:

B.S. Degrees:

<p>Agribusiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -General Option -Agricultural Finance and Banking -Food Product Marketing and Management -Agricultural Marketing -Livestock Industries 	<p>Agricultural Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -General Option -Farm and Ranch Management -Public Policy -Quantitative Methods 	<p>Natural Resource and Environmental Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Eco-Business and Sustainability -Energy Economics -Environmental Economics -Water Economics
<p>Grazing Livestock Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Joint program with Animal Science and Range Management 	<p>Master Scholars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Five-year Bachelors/Masters program 	<p>Minors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Agribusiness -Agricultural Economics -Community Economics and Social Dynamics

Internship/Work Experience

Not all undergraduate degree programs require an internship experience. However, all students are encouraged to complete at least one internship or work experience related to their career goals as these experiences are considered invaluable in learning more about specific academic disciplines.

Undergraduate Research

Students have outstanding opportunities to work with faculty who doing research in their fields. Beginning their sophomore year, students can apply for research grants as part of the U-CARE Program. Students in the UNL Honors Program can apply for honors thesis research grants through the (IANR). Students also have the opportunity to do one-on-one research with faculty. Also, the publication *RURALS: Review of Undergraduate Research in Agricultural and Life Sciences* is devoted to publishing high quality research by undergraduates.

Industry/International Study Tours

Each year the department sponsors an industry tour to help learn about the global, corporate, environmental and business nature of the industry. Past tours have included visits to Kansas City, MO; St. Louis, MO; and Decatur, IL. Students meet with professionals and tour companies such as: Archer Daniels Midland, Anheuser-Busch, the Federal Reserve Bank, or Purina Mills. A number of international study opportunities are also available through the CASNR and the UNL International Affairs Office.

Career possibilities with a degree in Agricultural Economics include:

- Farm and Ranch Management
- Entrepreneurship and Business Management
- Agricultural Financial Services
- Agricultural Product Sales and Marketing
- Public Policy Analysis and Development
- Grain Merchandising
- Real Estate Services
- Natural Resource Management
- Community Economic Development
- International Agriculture and Development
- Governmental Services
- Graduate or Law School

Graduate Degree Programs:

M.S. Degree in Agricultural Economics:

This degree is designed to prepare students for analytical or managerial positions in both public agencies and private businesses, or for further study as Ph.D. studies in economics or business. Most students enroll in Option I, which includes a thesis, but the department also offers an Option III, which substitutes more intensive work in advanced courses for the thesis. The two options require a common core of 13 credits including:

ECON 817 – Introduction to Econometrics (3 credits)

AECN/ECON 873 – Microeconomic Theory (3 credits)

AECN 821 – Orientation to Research (1 credit)

The remaining credits are from 17 hours of electives and 6 hours of thesis credit (Option I) or 29 hours of electives (Option III). For a total of 30 credits for Option I and 36 credits for Option III. Minors may be declared with a minimum of 9 semester hours in the minor department. With additional work in another department, an MS with a double major may be obtained. The department also offers MS degrees with specialization in two interdisciplinary programs: Environmental Studies and Water Resources Planning and Management.

MBA with a Specialization in Agribusiness:

The mission MBA with a Specialization in Agribusiness is to prepare leaders for careers throughout the agribusiness industry.

This is accomplished through individual attention given to each student from the faculty and staff of the Agribusiness Program not only in the classroom, but also in securing internships and permanent placement.

As the pioneer in agribusiness education, UNL's MBA Agribusiness Specialization is uniquely designed so students receive the core Business Administration courses that business leaders are looking for, but also allows students the freedom to focus on their specific area of interest. Farm management, bio-terrorism, community development and alternative energies are just some of the areas of student interest. This MBA combines the expertise of the College of Business Administration and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Masters of Agriculture with Specialization in Community Development:

This masters program is part of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA). As a fully online program, it is focused on professionals and practitioners who desire to contribute to positive change in their communities and regions by developing the tools and educational experience to be more effective. Online delivery and modular scheduling allows participants to fit it into work and personal responsibilities.

The program:

- Teaches the social action processes and the need to maintain balance to improve social, economic, cultural and environmental situations and opportunities.
- Encourages people to see the whole picture from a systems perspective.
- Engages citizens in democratic decision-making and action.
- Teaches critical and creative thinking, ethical consideration, and careful planning and involvement of all stakeholders.

The 36 credit master's degree program consists of:

- Community Development Orientation. 1 credit
- Five required 3-credit courses
- Five additional 3-credit courses from at least two of the specialization tracks
- Depending on the institution where students are admitted a Practicum or Creative Component or Thesis for up to six credits.

Core Courses:

- Community Development I: Principles and Strategies of Community Change
- Community Development II: Organizing for Community Change
- Community Analysis
- Community Natural Resource Management
- Community and Economic Policy Analysis

Tracks:

- Working with Native Communities
- Building Economic Capacity
- Natural Resource Management

Ph.D. Degree in Agricultural Economics

The Agricultural Economics Ph.D. program prepares students to do research on economic issues related to public and private decision making in agriculture, the food sector and natural resources. The core of the program consists of six courses in advanced economic theory and econometrics, taught through the Department of Economics.

Field courses are designed to provide students with a solid knowledge of the literature and guided research efforts in the following areas:

- Production economics
- Agricultural Industrial Organization
- International Trade
- Development
- Natural Resource Economics

The Ph.D. degree requires a minimum of 90 semester hours of graduate credits beyond the baccalaureate degree, including credit for dissertation research.

Required Courses:

ECON 957 – Econometrics I

ECON 958 – Econometrics II

ECON 973 – Advanced Microeconomic Theory I

ECON 974 – Advanced Macroeconomic Theory II

ECON 983 – Advanced Microeconomic Theory II

AECN 901 – Directed Study of Advanced Topics – selected from one of the above topics in section of 901 and 902

Specialization areas include, but are not limited to:

- Agribusiness
- Water Resources Planning and Management
- Environmental Studies
- Great Plains Studies

Areas of Study include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization
- Farm Management and Marketing
- International Agricultural Trade and Development
- Natural Resources and Environmental Economics
- Production Economics

■ Rural and Community Economic Development

The Agricultural Economics Department offers seven Achievement Centered Education (ACE) Certified Courses:

AECN 141 – Introduction to the Economics of Agriculture

AECN 346 – World Food Economics

AECN 367 – Agricultural Development in Developing Countries

AECN 420 – International Food and Agricultural Trade

AECN 425 – Agricultural Marketing in a Multinational Environment

AECN 435 – Advanced Agricultural Marketing Management

AECN 445 – Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy Analysis (NREE 445)

Library Collections

The agricultural economics collection supports the teaching, research and service/outreach activities in the area of agricultural economics and agribusiness and is housed at the C.Y. Thompson Library on the East Campus of UNL. While its primary audience is the faculty, staff, and students of the Agricultural Economics Department, the collection also supports the extension work of the department of CASNR and of IANR. The Department also relies heavily upon several other library collections held at Love Library on the City Campus, especially those of the Economics Department. Because of the broad scope of research, teaching, and outreach activities of the Agricultural Economics Department, it also relies heavily on library materials purchased in the areas of statistics, business, mathematics, sociology, political science, community and regional planning, education, history and law and several of the other departments in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

The University Libraries is one of the regional centers of the U.S. Federal Document Depository system and has a fairly complete set of U.S. Federal Government Documents. Those from the USDA are especially important to the Agricultural Economics Department and provide an invaluable resource for the research, study and teaching in the Department. The Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the Census of Agriculture publications are key examples of these documents. The library also has a collection of Nebraska State Documents, access to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture resources, selected United Nations (FAO) publications, access to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) resources, and a variety of World Bank publications all of which provide additional support to the needs of the Department.

Key journal publications are those from the Agriculture & Applied Economics Association and the American Economic Association.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The primary emphasis is North America. However, developing countries and other areas of the world are also of interest in certain areas of research.

III. CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE

Emphasis is on current materials. Historical economic and statistical information is also of research value.

IV. IMPRINT DATE

Primary emphasis is on current and recently published resources. Retrospective purchases are made as funding allows and as gaps in the collection are identified and/or as new areas of study are developed.

V. FORMAT

Most materials acquired are monographs, journals, serials, and reference works. Journals are generally preferred in electronic format whenever available. Appropriate proceedings and symposia are also selectively acquired. Electronic information sources, web-based sources, and databases that support the mission of the department are also purchased.

VI. LANGUAGES

English is the preferred language at all levels of collection intensity. Materials in other languages are purchased only upon request.

VII. ELECTRONIC DATABASES

The University Libraries has acquired a number of electronic databases, including some full-text, to support the research teaching and outreach activities of the Department. These include: CAB Abstracts, Agricola, Econ Lit, SourceOECD*, WDI Online, NBER Working Papers Series*, AgEconSearch, Sociological Abstracts, Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier, Web of Science, Water Resources Abstracts, Statistical Universe, LexisNexis Academic, and JSTOR. These electronic resources greatly enhance the research capability of the department and provide convenient and timely access to various resources.

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VII. CLASSIFICATION AND COLLECTION INTENSITY LEVEL :

- G 154 -156.5 -- Ecotourism – Sustainable tourism -- BASIC
- GF 41 -- Nature and human spirit -- BASIC
- HA 1-32 – General Statistics – BASIC
- HB 1-846 – Economic Theory (focus on Microeconomics) – BASIC
- HB3711-3840 – Business Cycles – BASIC
- HC 10-60 – Economic History and Conditions – BASIC
- HC79 – Environmental Economics -- STUDY
- HC107 – Economic History of Region – U.S. (Great Plains/Midwest/Rural) -- Study
- HD 28-88 – Economics Development. Production – STUDY
- HD101-1395 – Land Use. Land Tenure. Land Reform (United States)– RESEARCH
- HD1401-2210 – Agricultural Economics – RESEARCH
- HD3120-3575 – Cooperative Production and Distribution – STUDY
- HD9000-9490 – Agricultural Industries and Trades – RESEARCH
- HE149 – Transportation and Agriculture – RESEARCH
- HF1014-1191 – Balance of Trade. Commodities (Agricultural) -- RESEARCH
- HF2601 – Tariff Policy (Related to Farming Interests) – RESEARCH
- HF5001 – Business Periodicals – BASIC
- HF5410-5415 – Marketing. Product Distribution – RESEARCH
- HG2041-2051 – Agricultural Credit Agencies – RESEARCH
- HG6046-6051 – Speculation in Produce. Commodities, Agricultural -- RESEARCH
- HF4151-4449 – Land Tax, Real Estate Tax – BASIC
- HT401-485 – Rural Groups, Rural Sociology – RESEARCH
- KF566-720 -- Real Property. Land Law – BASIC
- KF746-750 – Estate Planning – BASIC
- KF1011-1012 – Agricultural Credit Banks and Regulatory Agencies – STUDY
- KF1681-1773 – Agricultural Forestry and Fishery Production Law – BASIC

KF1900-1944 – Food Processing Industries Law – BASIC

KFC790-808 – Water Resources and Land Law-- STUDY

S1-523 – Agriculture (General) – RESEARCH

S560-572 – Farm Economics. Farm Management. Agritourism. – RESEARCH