

Instructor Information

Dr. Eric Busby
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Time and Location: Monday & Wednesday with virtual lectures
9:30am - 10:45am
Range Animal Science Building RM TBA

Required Textbook: No Required Textbook**Reference** (*Not Required to Purchase*):

There will also be additional reading material assigned in the form of handouts that contain industry-related information. Students will be responsible for that information on tests and quizzes.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the field of agricultural business and economics. The course will stress the US and world food system with linkages among financial institutions, world markets, the macro economy, farms, agribusinesses, and the environment.

Departmental Projected Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to meet one or more of the following Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the basic skills of interpreting research data gathered in an agricultural context.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to mitigate potential challenges in diverse animal sciences and related agricultural industries.
3. Develop problem solving skills
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate through written, spoken, and graphical methods.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will demonstrate effective development and expression of ideas in writing.
2. The student will exhibit skill in prepared, purposeful oral communication of material or concepts.
3. The student will create and deliver visual works that facilitate audience understanding of a central message or purpose.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Understand the structure of the agricultural sector of the US economy.
- Apply economic principles to understand the conduct and performance of the agricultural industry.
- Understand the market structure, in agriculture, that affects farm/ranch level and consumer level prices.
- Understand the concepts of consumer choice and how it affects the farm/ranch level agricultural firms.
- Understand the macroeconomic aspects of the US economy as they affect the agricultural sector.
- Understand the role and impact of government policy on the agricultural sector.
- Understand the importance of the global interactions that affect the agricultural sector

This class is intended to be a learning experience, and your participation is required for you to be successful. As such the class structure, lesson topics, and overall learning environment will emphasize more than just knowledge comprehension.

SRSU Accessibility Services Statement

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services can contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator or Ronnie Harris, LPC at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email counseling@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832. Rio Grande College (Del Rio, Uvalde, and Eagle Pass) students can contact Alejandra Valdez by email at asv18en@sulross.edu or by calling (830) 758-5006.

Library Information

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

New for Fall 2023: Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Class Structure

The course is a traditional “Face-to-Face” course with periodic online lectures. This course is designed to be a guided study, and not just a dissemination of information. It will be run on a lecture\discussion\activity format. Lectures will utilize power points, demonstrations, videos, and visits to the internet for research. Lectures will be given primarily to enhance the learning environment, and answer questions about the **material that should have been studied prior to the class period**. There may be some step-by-step guided practice, individual assistance, and demonstrations during the scheduled class time in areas where there seems to be a need. It is essential that everyone be in attendance for scheduled meetings to share information, demonstrations, activities, and so questions are answered. ***Students are responsible for completing all assigned work.***

Discussion Participation (As Required)

Discussion topics are set up for each module; you are expected to contribute to each discussion by posting a comment and replying to at least 2 other posts. Five points can be earned for each discussion following the guidelines below. Spelling and grammar count.

Attendance - Student Expectations

Attendance (regular participation in the online classroom) is essential for maintaining the best learning environment. Learning occurs in relation to not only students and course materials but, just as importantly, peer to peer, professor to student, and student to professor. Participation in this course via the Internet is the responsibility of the student. Students receiving benefits from government agencies must adhere to policies stipulated by the specific agency.

Any student who has not logged on to this course or submitted any assignments by September 10, 2025 will be considered to have exceeded the University’s policy on “excessive absences” and may be automatically dropped from the course. Blackboard statistics track the logins made and document the sections of the course accessed. These statistics will be used by your professor as a factor in documenting your participation in the course.

Your professor will use Blackboard statistics to document logins to the course and assignments accessed.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose, and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Supportive Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Sully Shelf Course Material Information

All the required course materials for your classes are being delivered through Sully Shelf, the campus-wide course materials program. Your student account will be charged automatically, and you will not need to make a separate purchase.

- For this course we will be using a digital **eBook accessed through BryteWave, powered by RedShelf**. You will receive an email directly from BryteWave donotreply@redshelf.com, with a link to access your account. Please follow directions in the email to access your virtual bookshelf. The first time you access the eBook you will see a screen prompting you to “View Course Materials”.

If you wish to opt-out of this program, please follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to <https://ACCESSPortal.follett.com:443/2367>
- 2) Create an account using your student email account
- 3) Select Opt-Out to opt-out of the entire program. You will have an opportunity to opt back in if you choose to do so.
- 4) You can also Opt-Out from the student-specific link provided in the email from noreply@follett.com.

Important: If you Opt-Out, you will no longer have access to your digital materials and will need to purchase materials on your own. If you have physical (print) materials that you have already picked up from the campus store, please return the physical material(s) before opting-out.

If you have any questions about Sully Shelf or the charge to your student account, please contact the campus store by phone at (432) 837-8194 or via email at sullyshelf@follett.com.

Time Commitment

You will be expected to log on to the course site 5-6 times per week. You are also expected to participate in all assigned activities including discussions in the course. Students should be prepared to spend at least 4-6 hours per week outside of class on assignments that will include: Homework, Reading Assignments, Lab work and studying for tests and quizzes.

Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard. No late work will be accepted without proper documentation or prior approval by the instructor.

Course Communication: The official e-mail communications channel for this course is the Sul Ross State University e-mail account (**yourname@sulross.edu**) of each student and professor. For the purposes of this course, no other e-mail account is acceptable.

Due dates: All assignments and projects will be given due dates which must be met. All assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on the assigned day. Assignments and projects will not be accepted if they are turned in late without approval. **Late assignments will lose ten points per calendar day.** Students are responsible for meeting the deadlines even if classes are missed.

Grading: All work will be graded on specific criteria using the following guidelines. Any worksheets will be graded on a points-per-answer basis. Any sketches and drawings assigned will be graded on a 100-point (percentage) scale. Criteria for grading will include accuracy of content, appropriateness of content for assignment, presentation, and clarity. Projects in the lab will be graded on accuracy, neatness, content, adherence to standards, adherence to assignment, and workmanship. Graded items will be broken into specific categories and presented on grade sheets given at the time the assignments are given.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined by totals in these areas:

- 15% quizzes
- 25% final exam (comprehensive)
- 30% assignments: homework, lab work, and discussion participation
- 30% final project (group or individual project)

In the event one of the above categories is not completed during the course that percentage will automatically be divided between the other categories at the same level. All assignment points will be converted to percentages for individual assignment letter grades.

A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59-0

Grades will be earned on the basis that “C” is average work, “B” is above average work, and “A” is well above average work. Barring any unusual circumstances there will be **NO INCOMPLETES** given at the end of this semester.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. ***Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences.*** These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

All students are expected to complete their own work at all times. Any dishonest conduct will be promptly rewarded with an immediate "F".

Plagiarism

A student guilty of plagiarism and/or cheating will receive a grade of "F" in the course involved and the grade will be recorded on the transcript. Students giving and receiving assistance in any unauthorized manner during an examination will subject themselves to this cheating policy. A pattern of cheating will result in suspension.

Quizzes

You will not be given advance notice of quizzes. They will be primarily written in nature. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Tests/Exams

All exams will be given on the announced date.

The exams will cover material from class lecture and assigned readings. It is your responsibility to complete the exam when scheduled. Tests will be administered through Blackboard using various styles of questions covering terminology, equipment, processes, and other items discussed. Participation during tests is mandatory; no makeup tests will be given.

Midterm Exam

There will be no midterm exam given.

Final Exam

The final exam will be during the week of October 17, 2025. The specific date and time will be announced during the semester. The exam will include written, practical, and analytical portions, and will be comprehensive of the entire semester. Do not make any other plans for that day and time.

Agricultural Economics

Fall 2025

Tentative Course Outline

The following is a tentative schedule for the semester. The dates provided are the dates the reading is assigned, and the reading is to be completed by the following class day.

Date	Topic/Learning Experience	Activity/Assignment
Week 1	Course Intro/Expectations/ Introduction to Agricultural Economics	• Watch and read the material for the week. • Answer any discussion questions (recommended). • Complete the module questions
Week 2	Understanding Consumer Behavior	
Week 3	Business Behavior and Market Equilibrium	
Week 4	Government in the Food and Fiber Industry	
Week 5	Macroeconomics of Agriculture	
Week 6	Markets	
Week 7	International Agricultural Trade	
Week 8	Final Exam	

THIS SYLLABUS MAY CHANGE AT ANYTIME