

FARM MANAGEMENT  
AGEC 3303  
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness  
Louisiana State University and A&M College  
Fall 2017 Semester  
**Course Syllabus**

Class Schedule: 7:30-9:00 a.m., T TH  
134 J.C. Miller Hall

Instructor: Dr. Michael A. Deliberto  
229 Martin D. Woodin Hall  
Office Phone: 225-578-7267  
Office Hours: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday, and/or by appointment  
E-mail: [mdeliberto@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mdeliberto@agcenter.lsu.edu)  
Please put "AGEC 3303" in the subject line of your email to the Instructor.

Course Description: 3303 Farm Management (3) Prerequisite: AGEC 2003 or equivalent.  
Fundamental economic and business principles applied to a farm business;  
comprehensive and integrated treatment of management concepts for successful  
operation of a farm business.

Textbook: Kay, Ronald D., William M. Edwards, and Patricia A. Duffy. Farm Management  
8<sup>th</sup> Ed., McGraw Hill Education. New York, New York, 2016.

Earlier editions of this textbook can be referenced.

Additional readings from other sources will be assigned throughout the semester.  
Copies of readings will be made available online via the MyLSU web portal.

Course Objectives: The course describes some of the technological and economic forces driving the changes observed in agricultural production. An explanation of the concept of management and the decision making process, with an emphasis on the importance of strategic planning and decision making will be presented. The basic tools needed to measure management performance, financial progress, and the financial condition of the farm business will be discussed. Students will learn how and when economic principles can be used in management decision making, along with the importance of the different types of economic costs in both the short run and the long run. Topics necessary to further refine a manager's decision making skills are included in a discussion of farm business organization and transfer, risk control, income tax management, investment analysis, and enterprise analysis.

Grade Scale: No grading curve will be applied to any assignment/exam in this class. The final course grade will be assigned using the following grade scale:

90.000 – 100.00%	A
80.000 – 89.999%	B
70.000 – 79.999%	C
60.000 – 69.999%	D
<i>Less than 60.000%</i>	F

Plus/minus suffix grading will take effect for grades given for the 2015 fall semester. The assignment of the plus/minus suffix letter grading system will be implemented in AGECE 3303 as follows. The ten-point scale will be defined into thirds. Meaning that the lower one third of the grade region will carry a minus designation, the middle third will carry no suffix, and the top third of the scale will carry the plus designation.

Applying this to the 10-point range of the “A” grade category, performance reflecting a 90.000 to 93.332 score will result in an “A-” being assigned to the student. Students earning a 93.333 to 96.665, will witness an “A” grade being assigned. Students receiving a grade greater than 96.666 (on the 10-point “A” scale) will be assigned the grade of “A+”. This methodology will be applied uniformly to the B, C, and D grade categories.

Grading Procedure:	<u>Evaluation Method</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
	Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3	55%
	<i>(drop lowest score, remaining exams equate to 27.5% each)</i>	
	Final Exam	20%
	Quizzes/Projects	15%
	Homework	10%

Grading Information: Students will be expected to attend class each day and participate in all discussions, quizzes, and exams, as described in the “Grading Procedure” section above. Assignments turned in past the due date and time will not be accepted and a zero grade will be recorded. No make-up opportunities will be granted to students. Guidelines/requirements will be given in advance for each assignment. Students will have 24 hours after grades are posted to contest any grade received.

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. All students registered for this class will take the final exam at the time assigned by the University. A complete list of the fall 2015 semester schedule can be accessed at:

<https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/files/2017/06/2017-Fall-Schedule-Booklet-Revised-6-7.pdf>

- Class Absences:** Only absences deemed by the Instructor in accordance with LSU PS-22 will be excused. The student is required to e-mail the Instructor prior to missing class. Written documentation should be provided prior to the next class meeting. Documentation provided to the Instructor for an absence past 48 hours of the missed class and/or assignment will not be accepted. Absences for routine illnesses and work will not be excused. If you have a situation which will result in you missing an excessive amount of class, contact the Instructor immediately. Documentation will be required.
- Exams:** Exams will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. No make-up exams will be given. If a student misses Exams 1, 2, or 3, that exam will count as the drop score. If a second exam is missed, the exam will be recorded as a zero. The use of programmable calculators and i-phones are strictly prohibited on all exams.
- Quizzes:** In-class quizzes, pop-quizzes, and projects will be given during the semester. Students are to be present prior to distribution to qualify to take the quiz. Students entering the classroom after the quiz has started will not be allowed to take the quiz. Specific guidelines for projects will be given by the Instructor.
- Homework:** Several problem set exercises will be assigned during the semester. All homework assigned will count towards the final course grade. Homework must be turned in by the specified due date (in-person) and not accepted via e-mail.
- Moodle:** All reading assignments, homework assignments, and material presented in class, as well as homework and exam grades, will be posted on MyLSU. It is the responsibility of the student to access course material on Moodle on a regular basis to keep up to date with assignments and other course information. All students in this course will be required to use their MyLSU account. Your MyLSU e-mail address will be the primary method of communication. Please note that the LSU IT Help Desk can be accessed at: <http://itsweb.lsu.edu/USS/help%20desk/item2424.html>
- Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices (cell phones, i-pads, laptops, etc.) are to be silenced and placed off of the desktops during class lectures and exams. Anyone using an electronic device during class will be asked to leave and forfeit the opportunity to gain any points toward their course grade via a quiz/assignment and assignment. Appropriate action with the Dean's will immediately follow any incident.
- Student Behavior:** Class attendance is required to accomplish course objectives and achieve satisfactory performance on exams. Students are expected to be on time for class and to stay until class has ended. Students are expected to read assigned course material and are expected to be responsible for that material on exams. Please do not carry on personal conversations during class.

**Student Conduct:** Evidence of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate university authorities. Students are expected to abide by the University rules governing academic conduct, as discussed in the *Code of Student Conduct*. <http://saa.lsu.edu/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct%20August%2009.pdf>

**Am. Disability Act:** The LSU Office of Disability Services (ODS), in collaboration with other university departments, is committed to providing appropriate auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities in an effort to ensure their full participation in all activities, programs, and services to the university. If a student believes he or she has a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the ODS at 578-5919 or [disability@lsu.edu](mailto:disability@lsu.edu)