

Paper/Presentation (50 points)
Economics & Agriculture (ECON 4640), Spring 2009

In this short paper you must address the economic consequences of a Policy and/or Program that is affecting some aspect of the food and fiber system. You will be required to describe the policy or problem, analyze it in terms of key economic concepts, discuss who benefits and who is hurt, identify and explain whether you believe this policy is justified or not, and give a presentation.

You will be randomly assigned a general topic area for your paper. The five topic areas are:

- I. International Issues in Agriculture
- II. Environmental Issues in Agriculture
- III. Local and State Agriculture Issues
- IV. Issues Relating to Specific Agricultural Commodities or Products
- V. Food Safety, Nutrition, and Agricultural Technologies

Length: 4 – 6 pages (excluding cover page, figures, tables, and references) Must be typed and double spaced using a 12 point font. You must hand in a paper copy and an electronic copy.

References: Must have at least 2 credible references. Credible is defined as written work appearing in a published journal, book, or government report. Newspaper articles and “Publications” on the web are not considered credible for the purpose of this class, unless you can document that the web site contains a posting of something published in a "credible" source. It is anticipated that you will likely use newspaper/magazine articles in addition to your two credible sources. If you quote or use any material from any source, be sure to cite your source. If you use portions of your own work from another assignment, you must tell me. *Failing to cite your sources is considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly the course and will be reported to the appropriate university representatives.*

Style: The papers should be well written and professional in appearance. They are required to have clearly identified sections. (That is, the paper must be broken up into sections. For example: Introduction, Policy/Program Overview, Economic Consequences, Policy/Program Justification, Conclusions). I recommend developing an outline of your paper that breaks it into sections before you start writing.

Presentations: The students in each topic area will work together to prepare a group presentation. The group presentation will be approximately 20-25 minutes long and need to include some aspect of each student’s paper. The presentation must be prepared electronically (i.e. PowerPoint) and all members of the group must participate in the presentation.

Important Due Dates (see syllabus for late policies):

4/7: Topic Summary. 2-3 pages (typed and double spaced) describing the policy/program that you would like to write about (maybe a draft of the Introduction & Policy Overview section). You must have at least one credible reference at this point. Your paper will be returned to you and your topic will either be approved or a recommendation of how it should be changed will be given. (5 points)

5/19: Final Paper is Due (30 points)

5/26: Group Presentations. Order of presentations will be determined at a later date. (15 points)