

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
Independent Study Program
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0031

General Agriculture 101
Economics of Food and Agriculture

33 Assignments
3 Semester Hours

INTRODUCTION

Instructor: Dr. Stephan J. Goetz
Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics

Content: This course introduces students to the field of agricultural economics. As suggested by the course title, this field addresses problems and examines issues in the food and agriculture sector, which presently employs over 20% of the U.S. labor force. The field of agricultural economics is very broad. It covers the distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers; production problems on farms; and marketing issues that arise as food is transferred from farmers' fields to shelves in modern supermarkets and, eventually, to consumers' tables. During this transfer, many economic issues and problems arise. They include problems of environmental degradation, provision of adequate incomes to farmers, food safety issues, and many others.

Textbook: Seitz, Wesley D., Gerald C. Nelson and Harold G. Halcrow. *Economics of Resources, Agriculture, and Food*, McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York, 1994.
ISBN 0-07-025811-2

In some sections, material in this manual supplements the assigned textbook reading.

Procedure: You should start each lesson of this course by reading through the material provided in this manual. After that, you should carefully and thoroughly read the assigned pages in the textbook; the pages are listed in the Table of Contents and again in each of the sub-sections of this manual. You then need to answer the questions provided in this manual. Usually, these questions consist of true/false and multiple choice questions (generally worth 10 points each), as well as short answer questions which require you to write a paragraph or draw a graph (generally worth 30 points). Please read each question very carefully. At the end

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL COURSE COMPLETION

This sheet, designed to assist you in successfully completing your Independent Study course, provides information that may prove valuable should you experience difficulties in completing your course. The following provides additional clarification of **Independent Study Program Regulations** printed on the inside front cover of your study guide. Please read the information in your study guide as well as this sheet carefully. The Independent Study Program staff stands ready to assist you, but clear lines of communication between you and the Independent Study staff are essential. Major areas of concern are:

- 1. Submission of assignments:** Regulations printed on the inside cover of your study guide stipulate that no more than four (4) assignments may be submitted per week. You are expected to adhere to this requirement unless you are enrolled in one of the few courses that requires the submission of assignments in designated groups. Requests to submit from 5 to 7 lessons per week require the approval of the ISP College Program Coordinator and/or the course instructor. Requests to submit more than (7) per week **must** be made in **writing**, clearly stating serious reasons that can be substantiated. These requests must be approved by the ISP Director and the Dean, University Extension prior to acceptance of these lessons. Approval of these requests are not automatic. Approval to submit additional assignments may **not** be used to reduce the minimum time permitted for course completion.
- 2. Minimum time to complete a course:** If you need to finish a course in less time than the minimum seven (7) weeks required by **Program Regulations**, you must make that request in writing and secure approval from the ISP Program Coordinator, your instructor, and the Dean, University Extension **before** you take the examination. Your written appeal must state clearly the reason why you need to complete the course in less than the minimum time. In **no** instances will any individual be allowed to complete a three semester hour course in less than a calendar month from date of enrollment.
- 3. Final Examinations:** Examinations will be **mailed** only to approved testing centers or appropriate approved university officials. In only very rare instances will exams be sent by FAX. Approval to FAX an examination must requested in writing and approved by the Dean, University Extension through the Director, Independent Study. Please be aware that this approval process is absolutely necessary and, at certain times of the year, may be subject to extended delays. **Plan ahead.** Do not get yourself into a situation where faxing is necessary.
- 4. Final Grade Reporting:** Please be sure that the address (including the name of the person to whom the transcript will be sent, if possible) is clear and complete on the transcript request form provided with your exam. If your grade must meet a deadline, report that need to the ISP testing clerk or the ISP College Program Coordinator and write that information clearly on the exam cover sheet for your instructor to read. When a grade is needed to meet a deadline, the ISP coordinator will, in emergencies, telephone an appropriately designated official at another university to report the grade. You must furnish the name, title and telephone number of the person to be called. If required by the receiving institution, ISP will FAX a grade report to an appropriate official.
- 5. Course Cancellation:** ISP will **not** notify you in advance of the impending cancellation date of your enrollment. **Cancellation will take place one year from your course enrollment date** listed on your enrollment receipt. Cancellation notices will be sent to the address you provided at the time of your registration. It is your responsibility to provide ISP with updated telephone and address changes. After a cancellation has been entered on your record in the University Registrar's Office, changes will not be made.
- 6. If You Need Help:** In the event that you encounter problems at any time during your enrollment, the ISP staff is available and willing to provide assistance but you must communicate your needs. It is best and often necessary to provide requests in **writing** but ISP provides toll free telephone (1-800 432-0963 in Kentucky and 1-800-325-2766 out of state) for your convenience. **Call** or **write** us regarding any problem that may affect your timely and successful course completion.

of this manual you will find pages corresponding to each subsection of the course, which you can use to submit your answers. In the case of the true/false and multiple choice questions, chose the most plausible or sensible answer. There is only one correct answer to each multiple choice question. The final exam is worth 40 percent of the course grade, and it covers the entire material of the course.

Grading:	A	90% or higher
	B	80-89%
	C	70-79%
	D	60-69%
	E	less than 60%

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

My name is Stephan Goetz, and I am an Associate Professor on the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky. I was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and grew up in Africa (Tanzania and Egypt). I received a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture/Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph, in Canada, and then enrolled at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, where I received both a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. degree.

My area of research emphasis within agricultural economics is economic development. I spent 18 months in Senegal, West Africa, interviewing farmers and traders for my Ph.D. dissertation research. Since arriving in Kentucky (in 1990), my research focus has been on economic development of rural areas in Kentucky, including an emphasis on the roles of markets and education (human capital) in stimulating economic development. A related interest includes studying the increasing part-time employment of farm operators in off-farm occupations.

I have taught the GEN 101 course since joining the University of Kentucky. In addition, I teach an undergraduate course in regional economic development and a graduate course in international agricultural development.

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