

Economics of Food and Agriculture

(Third edition, 2014)

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This is a heavily-edited version of an introductory agricultural economics text book “Economics of Food and Agriculture” that was originally published by Kendall Hunt, in 1990 but has long been out of print. The current version consists of 620 color pdf slide set constituting material for a complete introductory (100-level course) in agricultural economics. All the color slides are contained in an 11 MB pdf file (similar in size to a tablet or iPad application).

The file is ideally suited for downloading by tech-savvy beginning undergraduate agricultural economics student to a variety of devices. I have been experimenting with 7-inch Android tablets, but the file should work equally well on an iPad or perhaps even a smart phone. Obviously the file can also be downloaded to a laptop or desktop computer or any other device that has a pdf reader on it. By downloading the file students suddenly have a complete 620-slide beginning agricultural economics course on whatever device they prefer to use.

The material can also be use by instructors for classroom presentations employing a computer projector. I envision a modern agricultural economics classroom of students with devices of various types in the class having already downloaded same material on the device as what appears on-screen. The slides contain much of the detailed core material, but there is still plenty of space for instructors to do their own things in conjunction with the slides.

There are two files, one containing 620 color pdf slides in 17 chapters. A second file handout file contains the same slides set up for printing on a black-and-white printer, two-to-a-page.

Both of the files are free downloads at <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

The “handle” to get directly to the files is <http://purl.umn.edu/162696> All of this is **FREE**, and **EVERY** beginning student in agricultural economics no matter where they are should download the files to the device of their choice!

Background on the revision and updates to the material:

The 1990 versions of this book relied heavily on graphs that constructed by the author using secondary data. Now there are many other sources, most notably the graphs contained in the USDA ERS chart gallery. In updating this version to the present, I retained a few of the graphs that were in the original version, but then located graphs created by the USDA ERS in their chart gallery in order to add to and supplement the original information. These slides were originally constructed employing Harvard Graphics routines. At that point in computing history, clip art as opposed to photographs was being used extensively. By retaining some of the quirky clip art from the original version, I have also retained some of the look and feel of the original edition. It turns out that these slides, with big fonts and quirky clip-art, look particularly neat on a small hand-held device.

Color is important on these slides, which were originally used for GEN 101 taught using these slides by me and several others in the UK ag. econ Department. Students will want to download the color file to their laptops or tablet devices. For the most part, the black-and-white handout looks fine when printed, but for a few of the graphs, the color causes lines or other information to be washed out or a graph or map becomes hard to read. Students should refer back to the color version on their computing devices.

Links for Powerpoint slides for individual chapters for instructors

All of the 600+ slides contained in the book are available to instructors as free downloads. The general Web address for downloading these is [http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch"X"](http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch).ppt where “X” is the specific one- or

two-digit chapter number. Hence, the Powerpoint for chapter 10 can be downloaded at the Web Address <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch10.ppt>

Hot Links for all the chapters as individual Powerpoints are below

Chapter 1: Introduction <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch1.ppt>

Chapter 2: The Structure of Agriculture <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch2.ppt>

Chapter 3: Demand and Supply <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch3.ppt>

Chapter 4: Introduction to Elasticities <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch4.ppt>

Chapter 5: Utility Analysis <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch5.ppt>

Chapter 6: Agricultural Production Economics
<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch6.ppt>

Chapter 7: Producer Cost <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch7.ppt>

Chapter 8: Production with Two Inputs or Outputs
<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch8.ppt>

Chapter 9: Alternative models of Competition
<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch9.ppt>

Chapter 10: Agricultural Marketing <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch10.ppt>

Chapter 11: Credit in Agriculture <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch11.ppt>

Chapter 12: Public Policy <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch12.ppt>

Chapter 13: Economics of Resources <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch13.ppt>

Chapter 14: Trade in Agricultural Goods
<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch14.ppt>

Chapter 15: Economic Systems in Other Countries
<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch15.ppt>

Chapter 16: World Food <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch16.ppt>

Chapter 17: Rural Economic Development

<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/efa/ch17.ppt>

These Powerpoint figures are backward compatible and should work on early Windows based machines at least as far back as those running Office 97.

The 3-part, 3-level Plan:

These slides represent the introductory or first-level agricultural economics designed for beginning students who have not yet taken calculus and have only limited experience working with computerized spreadsheets. Chapters 3-9 of the introductory slides contain the sections with the core micro theory, Demand and Supply, Elasticities, Utility Analysis, Production Economics, Cost, and Alternative Models of Market Competition.

The next step from a curriculum perspective is to move to intermediate or upper-division material. The book and course materials for the upper-division version (junior-senior level) is what **Applied Microeconomics: Consumption, Production and Markets** is all about.

This book follows the exact same content format as the beginning level slides above. Two new Assumptions: 1. Students have all now have been exposed to differential calculus, and 2. Students are now much more computer-literate especially with respect to being able to use spreadsheets to make up tables of calculations and to draw graphs. The problems themselves should be quite familiar to students, because they have already seen a lot of them in the introductory slide set (Chapters 3-9) above.

This is a microeconomic theory book designed for upper-division undergraduate students in economics and agricultural economics. This intermediate-level book is available electronically also as a free download at

<http://purl.umn.edu/158321>

Amazon markets bound print copies of the book at amazon.com at a nominal price (about \$25) for classroom use.

http://www.amazon.com/Applied-Microeconomics-Consumption-Production-Markets/dp/1475244347/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1390834118&sr=8-5&keywords=debertin

The book can also be ordered through college bookstores using the following ISBN numbers:

ISBN-13: 978-1475244342

ISBN-10: 1475244347

You could print the book directly from the free e-download, but Amazon does such a nice job of binding and printing the book in an easy-to-put-in-a-backpack format, if I were an instructor I would simply order the bound copies. I have experimented with simply downloading this as a pdf e-book. The problem that I get into is that would like to be able to flip pages around to compare graphs directly with table numbers, and also look at math steps that occurred a few pages ago, and I really believe that the print copy is still extremely important here in the learning process.

Everything in the book is tied back to what was contained in chapters 3-9 of the introductory slides, but everything also becomes more quantitative with the combination of calculus and spreadsheets applied. The transition should be very smooth from introductory to intermediate level.

Part 3 goes into the introductory graduate level, with emphasis on production economics. **Agricultural Production Economics** (Second Edition, Amazon Createspace 2012) is a revised edition of the Textbook Agricultural Production Economics published by Macmillan in 1986 (ISBN 0-02-328060-3). This is intended primarily for adoption at the beginning graduate level although a few institutions are using this also at the upper-division undergraduate level.

The beauty of the linkage at the three levels is that Agricultural Production Economics uses a lot of the same or closely-related numerical examples that students who have used Applied Economics will have already seen at the upper-division undergraduate level. There is a real advantage to having the same author writing the materials at all different levels. Agricultural Production Economics is available as a **FREE** e-download at <http://purl.umn.edu/158319>

Amazon also has bound print copies of the book at amazon.com at a nominal price (about \$19) for classroom use. Again, students can download the file but I recommend the paper copy for serious study.

http://www.amazon.com/Agricultural-Production-Economics-Second-Edition/dp/1469960648/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1390834585&sr=8-1&keywords=debertin

The 428 pp. book can also be ordered through college bookstores using the following ISBN numbers:

ISBN-13 978-1469960647

ISBN-10 1469960648

A companion 100-page color book Agricultural Production Economics (The Art of Production Theory) is also a free pdf download at <http://purl.umn.edu/158320>

For instructors who want a color Powerpoint version of all of these figures from Agricultural Production Economics for display in the classroom, this link provides a free electronic download to all of them in ppt format

<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/colorbookppt.ppt>

A bound 100-pp. print copy is also available on amazon.com at a nominal cost (about \$25, probably cheaper than buying color toner to print the file). Here is the Amazon link:

http://www.amazon.com/Agricultural-Production-Economics-The-Theory/dp/1470129264/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1390834585&sr=8-2&keywords=debertin

The companion book can also be ordered through bookstores under the following ISBN numbers:

ISBN- 13: 978-1470129262

ISBN- 10: 1470129264

Concluding Comments

Collectively, this is a lot of material, all designed to be integrated work seamlessly in both an undergraduate from start to finish and the beginning graduate level curriculum. The entire set of materials needs to be seen as core curriculum in an agricultural economics program and as a single large set of material as opposed to three sets of materials to be used separately rather than together.

I am interested in integrating what beginning students already know about using tablet and smart phones into basic agricultural economics instruction. Further, I think my intermediate-level content is going to be much more meaningful to students if they have already been studying the beginning slides on their devices at the introductory level. I am confident in the quality of the materials and their appropriateness for instruction at each level.