AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES (AREc 372)
Location, Day Time (3 credits)
Cooperatives Tour - 3rd Thursday; departing Corvallis at 7:30 AM returning at 8:00 PM

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Office hours – by appointment

Course description:
This course is an introduction to and in-depth examination of the agricultural cooperative. Students will gain a working knowledge of the concepts, principles, and terminology of agricultural cooperatives through reference materials, lectures, presentations by guest speakers and a cooperatives tour. Upon completion of the course students will understand the strengths and weakness of the agricultural cooperative as well as the unique management and operational challenges inherent to this form of business organization.

Course Delivery
Classes will meet for two hours per week with an all day tour on the third Thursday of the term. The instructor will use videos, lectures, and expect students to lead discussions as appropriate. Guest lecturers currently engaged in agricultural cooperatives will present topical seminars to the class.

Learning Outcomes:
On completion of the course participants will be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of agricultural cooperatives;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of antitrust legislation as it relates to agricultural cooperatives;
3. Understand the value and function of agricultural cooperatives;
4. Clearly communicate the roles and responsibilities of members, managers and directors in agricultural cooperatives;
5. Clearly communicate how the agricultural cooperative business model differs from other business models;
6. Analysis and evaluate operational, financial and managerial challenges experienced by agricultural cooperatives; and
7. Integrate, synthesize and communicate different ideas and concepts gained from:
   • Course readings, discussions and lectures.
   • Other courses undertaken as part of their undergraduate program or previous training.
   • Personal and professional experiences.

Learning Resources
1) Cooperatives: An Economic and Management Perspective –-David Barton
   Reading materials from this book will be posted on Blackboard.
2) Antitrust Status of Farmer Cooperatives: The Story of the Capper-Volstead Act
   USDA Rural Business - Cooperative Service, Cooperative Information report

3) Choices, The Magazine of Food, Farm and Resource Issues, 3rd Quarter 2011| 26(3)
   Six themes from this article will be posted on Blackboard.

Additional Readings list:
4) The Capper-Volstead Act: Opportunity Today and Tomorrow
   In Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Capper-Volstead Act
   By: Donald M. Barnes and Christopher E. Ondec, Jenkens & Gilchrist,
   http://www.uwcc.wisc.edu/info/capper.html

5) Co-ops 101: An Introduction to Cooperatives
   Donald A. Frederick. Cooperative Information Report 55, 1997,

6) 2009 Oregon Revised Statutes: Chapter 62 — Cooperatives
   http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/062.html

7) A Brief Introduction to Ag Cooperatives (EM 8665)
   Ag Coop. Ed.: Developing and Using Case Studies (AREc Staff Paper, 07-102).

8) Cooperative Conversions, Failures and Restructurings: Case Studies and Lessons
    from U.S. and Canadian Agriculture. Murry Fulton and Brent Hueth Eds. Knowledge
    Impact on Society. 2009
    http://www.community-wealth.org/_pdfs/articles-publications/coops/book-fulton-
    hueth.pdf

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**Evaluation of Student Performance**

Mid-term exams (2 at 100 pts each): 200 pts
Ag Cooperatives Tour paper: 100 pts
Quizzes: 100 pts
Final exam: 100 pts
Class participation: 100 pts

500 pts

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Class Participation
Class discussion is a very important part of this course. You will be expected to participate (which includes active listening) in discussions at all times. You will also lead discussions as called upon. This will happen regularly and without prior warning so it is crucial you come to class prepared. Your class participation grade will be made up of three components:
1. Preparation as demonstrated by your familiarity with assigned readings and general course subject matter.
2. Participation as demonstrated by your appropriate engagement in class discussions.
3. Contribution where your preparation and participation make a positive contribution to the course learning outcomes that would not have occurred in the absence of your participation.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the Office of Student Conduct: information and regulations (http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm).

Academic Dishonesty: You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner. Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Therefore, students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:
- cheating- use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- fabrication- falsification or invention of any information
- assisting- helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- tampering- altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents, or
- plagiarism- representing the words or ideas of another person as one’s own

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tentative Class Schedule</th>
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| **Week 1** | | • Introduction to agricultural cooperatives (#1: Ch’s 1 & 2)  
• Early Agricultural Cooperative organization development (#1: Ch4; #2 Ch1) |
| **Week 2** | | • Antitrust history (#1: Ch 9 & #2: p28-30, p67-74)  
Capper-Volstead and other legislation (#1: Ch 9, #2: p88-92, p133) |
| **Week 3** | | **Exam 1 – Agricultural cooperative history and antitrust legislation**  
• Cooperative Structures: Functions Performed (#1: Ch 3: p2-10)  
• Agricultural Cooperatives Tour |
| **Week 4** | | • Financial & Organizational Structures (#1: Ch 3: p10-17)  
• Managers & Directors (#1: Ch 10: p14-23, Ch 11: p2-19) |
| **Week 5** | | • Cooperative Membership & Control – Guest Speaker: Mark Dickman  
**Lunch provided by ACCO at MU xxx**  
Agricultural Cooperatives Tour Paper Due |
| **Week 6** | | • Cooperative Management – Guest Speaker: Pat McAllister  
• Critical Issues and Strategies for Agricultural Cooperatives (#3: i & ii)  
**Lunch provided by ACCO at MU xxx** |
| **Week 7** | | **Exam 2 – Agricultural cooperative business models**  
• Current Challenges in Financing Agricultural Cooperatives (#3: iii)  
**Lunch provided by ACCO at MU Journey room from 12:00 to 2:00 PM** |
| **Week 8** | | • An Agricultural Cooperative Board Meeting – Guests: Doug Hoffman and Wilco Farmers, Inc. Board of Directors. |
| **Week 9** | | • Opportunities & Challenges for Cooperatives in Today’s Economic Climate – Carl Casale  
• Strategic Planning for Agricultural Cooperatives  
**Lunch provided by ACCO at MU xxx** |
| **Week 10** | | • New Cooperative Development Issues (#3: v)  
• Industry Leaders’ Perspectives on Communicating the Cooperative Value Package (#3: vi) |
| **Finals Week** | | **Day, Date, Location and Time** |

# Refers to the reading material listed on page 2