

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

The curriculum provides broad technical training and a strong liberal arts and business background to prepare students for careers in a wide array of agribusiness and related fields.

Students are encouraged to use professional electives to complete a minor from the College of Agriculture, the College of Business, the College of Sciences and Mathematics or the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment or in Economics in the College of Liberal Arts. Otherwise, students may follow a general program by selecting from courses at the 3000-level or higher in the College of Agriculture, the College of Business, College of Mathematics and Sciences or the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, as well as offerings at the 3000 level or higher in economics, sociology, anthropology, geography, political science, or statistics. Basic Soil Science (CSES 2040) may also be counted as a professional elective, as may up to 8 hours of a foreign language, regardless of the level. Students are encouraged to see their advisors to plan their professional electives around an interest area that best meets their career aspirations.

Majors

- Agricultural Business & Economics (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/undergraduate/collegeofagriculture/agricultureeconomicsandruralsociology/agriculturalbusinessandeconomics_major/)

Minors

- Agribusiness (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/undergraduate/collegeofagriculture/agricultureeconomicsandruralsociology/agribusiness_minor/)
- Natural Resources Economics and Environmental Policy (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/undergraduate/collegeofagriculture/agricultureeconomicsandruralsociology/naturalresrenvironmentpolicy_minor/)
- Rural and Community Development (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/undergraduate/collegeofagriculture/agricultureeconomicsandruralsociology/rural_communitydev_minor/)

Agric Economics Courses

AGEC 1000 GLOBAL ISSUES IN FOOD, AGRICULTURE, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENT (3) LEC. 3. To expose students to global issues in food, agriculture, development, and natural resource/environmental economics and to learn about career opportunities in the field.

AGEC 3010 AGRIBUSINESS MARKETING (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027). Principles and problems of marketing farm and agribusiness products including marketing methods, channels, structures, and institutions. May count either AGEC 3010 or AGEC 3013.

AGEC 3050 FARM APPRAISAL (2) LEC. 2. Theory of land values; terminology, processes and procedures for alternative appraisal purposes; factors affecting value; and evaluation of appraisal methods.

AGEC 3080 FUTURES AND OPTIONS MARKETING (2) LEC. 2. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027). Functions, institutions, economic performance, and practices and procedures involved in utilizing futures and options markets to manage market price risks.

AGEC 3100 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (3) LEC. 3. Pr. P/C STAT 2010 or P/C STAT 2017 or P/C STAT 2510 or P/C STAT 2513 or P/C STAT 2610 or P/C BUAL 2600. Analytical methods for agricultural economics: spreadsheet applications, optimization, regression, budgeting, and risk management.

AGEC 3200 QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (MATH 1680 or MATH 1610) and AGEC 3100. The course covers mathematical and econometric models for the quantitative analysis of problems in food, agricultural, development and resource/environmental economics.

AGEC 3300 AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND TRADE (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 2020 or ECON 2027 or ECON 2023. Public policies affecting agriculture. Theory and significance of international trade, distribution of production and trade, issues and policies, and influence of exchange rates.

AGEC 3920 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS INTERNSHIP (1-3) INT. SU. Departmental approval. Practical experience with agricultural business firms and agencies including finance, farm supply, production, marketing and sales and government. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

AGEC 3950 CAREERS IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS (1) LEC. 1. SU. To develop skills to find a job and learn about career opportunities in agricultural business and economics.

AGEC 4000 PRINCIPLES OF AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2027 or ECON 2023). Economics and business principles applied to agriculture: business formation, composing and analyzing financial statements, financial analysis and decision-making functions of management, capital budgeting and investment decisions. (Credit will not be given to majors in AGECE, ECON, or business).

AGEC 4040 AGRIBUSINESS FINANCE (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027) and (ACCT 2110 or ACCT 2117 or ACCT 2810) and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2017 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2513 or STAT 2610 or BUAL 2600). ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027 with minimum grade of C. Economic problems and policies in financing agriculture.

AGEC 4047 HONORS AGRIBUSINESS FINANCE (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027) and (ACCT 2110 or ACCT 2117 or ACCT 2810) and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2017 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2513 or STAT 2610 or BUAL 2600). ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027 with minimum grade of C. Economic problems and policies in financing agriculture.

AGEC 4070 AGRICULTURAL LAW (3) LEC. 3. Recognition of legal problems associated with property ownership, contracts, torts, financing, estate planning and environmental controls and restrictions.

AGEC 4100 AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES (2) LEC. 2. Principles and problems of organizing and operating farmers' cooperative buying and selling associations.

AGEC 4120 ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS (3) LEC. 3. Economic principles related to common property, public goods, property rights, externalities and resource scarcity and allocation applied to current issues.

AGEC 4960 SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (1-2) IND. Departmental approval. Individual or group projects with a faculty member in agricultural economics or agribusiness. May include research, data analysis or a combination of these. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 4 credit hours.

AGEC 4967 HONORS SPECIAL PROBLEMS (1-3) IND. Pr. Honors College. Membership in the Honors College required; Topics in agricultural economics. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 3 credit hours.

AGEC 4970 SPECIAL TOPICS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (1-3) LEC. 1-3. Departmental approval. Topics of special interest in agricultural economics. May be repeated with change of topic. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

AGEC 4980 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (2-4) IND. Departmental approval. Directed research in the area of specialty within the department. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 4 credit hours.

AGEC 4997 HONORS THESIS (1-3) LEC. 3. Pr. Honors College. Directed research and writing of honors thesis. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 3 credit hours.

AGEC 5010 FARM MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (MATH 1680 or MATH 1683 or MATH 1610 or MATH 1613) and (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027) and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2017 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2513 or STAT 2610 or BUAL 2600) and (ACCT 2110 or ACCT 2117 or ACCT 2810) and AGECE 3100. ECON 2020 or 2023 or 2027 minimum grade of C. Principles of economics applied to agriculture; uses of farm records to improve management of the farm; developing enterprise budgets and use in preparing a profit-maximizing farm plan.

AGEC 5030 AGRICULTURAL PRICES (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (STAT 2010 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2610 or BUAL 2600) and (MATH 1680 or MATH 1610) and ECON 3020. Functions of prices and principles of supply and demand in price determination for agricultural products and markets. Statistical estimation of price and demand relationships. Spring. May count either AGECE 5030 or AGECE 6030.

AGEC 5090 ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS I (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 3020. Supply, demand, future requirements and availability of environmental and natural resources plus institutional framework affecting and conditioning such use through property rights, zoning, taxation, etc. May count either AGECE 5090 or AGECE 6090.

AGEC 5100 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027) and AGEC 3100 and ACCT 2210 or ACCT 2217 or ACCT 2810 and P/C AGEC 4040. Principles and problems in acquiring or starting, organizing, and operating successful agribusiness; financial and operational efficiency; human resource and public relations; decision-making tools. May count either AGEC 5100 or AGEC 6100.

AGEC 5210 ADVANCED AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 5100 and ECON 3020 and MATH 1690 and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2610). Case studies, managerial economics. May count either AGEC 5210 or AGEC 6210.

AGEC 5250 BIG DATA FOR AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 3200. To expose students to essential tools for acquiring, managing, and visualizing large datasets in agribusiness.

AGEC 6010 FARM MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (MATH 1680 or MATH 1683 or MATH 1610 or MATH 1613 or MATH 1617) and (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027) and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2017 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2513 or STAT 2610 or BUAL 2600 or BUAL 2603) and (ACCT 2110 or ACCT 2113 or ACCT 2117 or ACCT 2810 or ACCT 2813) and AGEC 3100. ECON 2020/ECON 2027 minimum grade of C. Principles of economics applied to agriculture; uses of farm records to improve management of the farm; developing enterprise budgets and use in preparing a profit-maximizing farm plan.

AGEC 6030 AGRICULTURAL PRICES (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (MATH 1680 or MATH 1683 or MATH 1610 or MATH 1613 or MATH 1617) and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2017 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2513 or STAT 2610 or BUAL 2600 or BUAL 2603) and ECON 3020. Functions of prices and principles of supply and demand in price determination for agricultural products and markets. Statistical estimation of price and demand relationships. Spring.

AGEC 6090 ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS I (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 3020. Supply, demand, future requirements and availability of environmental and natural resources plus institutional framework affecting and conditioning such use through property rights, zoning, taxation, etc.

AGEC 6100 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027) and (ACCT 2210 or ACCT 2217 or ACCT 2810) and P/C AGEC 4040. Principles and problems in acquiring or starting, organizing, and operating successful agribusiness; financial and operational efficiency; human resource and public relations; decision-making tools.

AGEC 6210 ADVANCED AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 6100 and ECON 3020 and MATH 1690 and (STAT 2010 or STAT 2510 or STAT 2513 or STAT 2610). Case studies, managerial economics.

AGEC 6250 BIG DATA FOR AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (3) LEC. 3. To expose students to essential tools for acquiring, managing, visualizing, and analyzing large datasets in agribusiness.

AGEC 7000 ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 6090 and (AGEC 3300 or AGEC 6030 or AGEC 5030). Food and farm problems and related governmental actions from historical, political and analytical viewpoints. Welfare economics and other procedures used to evaluate costs and benefits of existing and proposed governmental programs and actions affecting agriculture, environment and the consumer.

AGEC 7030 ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL PRICES (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 6030 and ECON 6020. Theory and measurement of farm supply, retail demand and marketing-margin relationships. Introduction to equilibrium-displacement modeling.

AGEC 7080 PRODUCTION ECONOMICS I (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 6020. Resource allocation and efficiency of production in the firm, between firms, and between agriculture and other industries.

AGEC 7090 RESOURCE ECONOMICS II (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 6090. Analysis of institutional and economic factors affecting use of natural resources including economic feasibility/conservation, benefit-cost analysis, environmental controls and other interventions.

AGEC 7100 OPERATIONS RESEARCH METHODS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (3) LEC. 3. Optimization techniques with emphasis on linear programming and its extensions applied to agriculture. General theoretical background and associated computational procedures are used for presentation of models and modeling techniques.

AGEC 7110 AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 2020 or ECON 2027 or ECON 2023. Conceptual and empirical analysis of economic development with emphasis on the lesser developed areas and countries. Analysis of financial and technical aid to other countries case studies of development problems.

AGEC 7200 AQUACULTURAL ECONOMICS I (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 2020 or ECON 2027 or ECON 2023. Application of economic theories and principles to production, marketing, and consumption of aquacultural enterprises and products. Role of aquaculture in economic development.

AGEC 7590 INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL ECONOMETRICS (3) LEC. 3. Pr. (MATH 1610 or MATH 1613 or MATH 1617) and STAT 2610. Regression analysis in economic research. Model specification and estimation plus introduction to detection and correction of violations of assumptions of OLS. Hypothesis testing, dummy variables, heteroschedasticity, autocorrelation and measurement errors.

AGEC 7690 MICROECONOMETRICS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS I (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 7590. The focus will be on implementation and interpretation, as well as on the microeconomic foundations of the econometric models covered in the course.

AGEC 7700 RESEARCH METHODS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 7130 and AGEC 7590. Overview of the philosophy of science, detailed discussion of how various research tools are used to perform applied research in agricultural economics.

AGEC 7960 SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (1-3) AAB. Departmental approval required; Individualized direction/instruction by faculty on research, teaching and/or outreach issues. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

AGEC 7970 SPECIAL TOPICS IN AGRIC ECON (3) LEC. 3. Departmental approval. New topics in agricultural and applied economics.

AGEC 7990 RESEARCH AND THESIS (1-10) MST. Course may be repeated with change in topics.

AGEC 8060 THEORY OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 7590 and ECON 6020. Theory and methods for estimating complete demand systems (e.g., LES, Translog, ALIDS, and Rotterdam) for food products. Introduction to imperfect competition models.

AGEC 8080 PRODUCTION ECONOMICS II (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 7080. Firm-level economics problems are extended. Consideration of the influence of risk on firm behavior; empirical analysis of theoretical problems; welfare analysis; technical change; impacts of research investments.

AGEC 8090 FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY (3) LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 6020 or ECON 7000 or ECON 7110. The course will cover current issues in the economics and policies associated with food, food production and marketing.

AGEC 8690 MICROECONOMETRICS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS II (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 8310. The focus will be on implementation and interpretation, as well as on the microeconomic foundations of the econometric models covered in the course. May count either AGEC 8310 or AGEC 8690.

AGEC 8890 TOPICS IN AGRICULTURAL MICROECONOMETRICS (3) LEC. 3. Pr. AGEC 8690. This course is meant to assimilate knowledge acquired throughout core coursework in the Agricultural Economics PhD program.

AGEC 8990 RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION (1-10) DSR. Course may be repeated with change in topics.

Rural Sociology Courses

RSOC 2090 FOOD SYSTEMS: POLICY, PRODUCTION, AND PRACTICE (3) LEC. 3. Post farm gate transformation of raw commodities into edible food. Supply chain, policy, and consumption issues as they relate to processing, safety, nutrition, and waste in the U.S.

RSOC 3560 ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY, AND JUSTICE (3) LEC. 3. The course focuses on micro and macro structures influencing environmental problems, and possible pathways for their resolution. The course introduces Environmental Sociology through an action-oriented approach to environmental problems.

RSOC 3620 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (3) LEC. 3. Analysis of social organization at the community level. Conceptual framework developed to examine both internal and external forces affecting urban as well as rural communities in the U.S., and to identify strategies to strengthen local capacity to adapt to changing social and economic environments.

RSOC 4910 DIRECTED FIELD EXPERIENCE (3) LEC. 3. Departmental approval. Structured intensive involvement within an agency or organization serving people in communities or rural areas. Supervision is shared between agency personnel and department faculty who plan, consult, discuss, and evaluate student activities and reports.

RSOC 4930 DIRECTED STUDIES (1-3) IND. Departmental approval. Individualized study of topics in rural sociology and community development, natural resources and environmental issues conducted in consultation with a faculty member. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 3 credit hours.

RSOC 4960 SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (1-3) LEC. Departmental approval. Investigation of problems in rural sociology and community development, natural resources and environmental issues conducted in consultation with a faculty member. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 3 credit hours.

RSOC 5190 SOCIOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS (3) LEC. 3. Key trends in alternative production-consumption systems (e.g., rise of small/very-small production and processing, development and feasibility short and values-based supply chains; and food security, justice, equity, sovereignty, and democracy). May count either RSOC 5190 or RSOC 6190.

RSOC 5410 EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND METHODS (3) LEC. 3. An introduction to the Cooperative Extension System and other forms of educational outreach. Application of techniques used in extension and outreach planning and programming.

RSOC 5510 SOCIAL WELFARE, FAMILY AND POVERTY (3) LEC. 3. Pr. SOCY 1000 or SOCY 1007 or ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027. Description for Bulletin: Measuring and explaining poverty inequality and their effects on families and society, analysis of anti-poverty programs.

RSOC 5610 RURAL SOCIOLOGY (3) LEC. 3. Theories and conceptual approaches to rurality in international and domestic contexts. Rural-urban differences in demographic composition, occupational structure, attitudes, and values of rural people and regional cultures. Rural services and institutions as determinants of the quality of life.

RSOC 5640 SOCIOLOGY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (3) LEC. 3. Principles of applied social change at the community level in both industrialized and non-industrialized settings; impacts of economic and technological changes on urban and rural communities; citizen participation in community affairs.

RSOC 5650 SOCIOLOGY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (3) LEC. 3. The social origins of contemporary environmental problems, emergence of environmentalism as a social movement within industrialized nations, and other topical issues.

RSOC 6190 SOCIOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS (3) LEC. 3. This is an advanced course that will focus on key trends in alternative production-consumption systems (e.g., rise of small/very-small production and processing, development and feasibility short and values-based supply chains; and food security, justice, equity, sovereignty, and democracy).

RSOC 6410 EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND METHODS (3) LEC. 3. An introduction to the Cooperative Extension System and other forms of educational outreach. Application of techniques used in extension and outreach planning and programming.

RSOC 6510 SOCIAL WELFARE, FAMILY AND POVERTY (3) LEC. 3. Description for Bulletin: Measuring and explaining poverty and inequality and their effects on families and society; analysis of anti-poverty programs.

RSOC 6610 RURAL SOCIOLOGY (3) LEC. 3. Theories and conceptual approaches to rurality in international and domestic contexts. Rural-urban differences in demographic composition, occupational structure, attitudes and values of rural people and regional cultures. Rural services and institutions as determinants of the quality of life.

RSOC 6650 SOCIOLOGY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (3) LEC. 3. The social origins of contemporary environmental problems, emergence of environmentalism as a social movement within industrialized nations, and other topical issues.

RSOC 7620 SOCIOLOGY OF COMMUNITY (3) LEC. 3. Emphasis on theories, conceptual approaches and methods for studying communities and assessing developmental needs with attention to organizational structure, power structure, decision-making and linkage networks to societal units.

RSOC 7630 POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT (3) LEC. 3. Theories of societal development applied to contemporary issues associated with change in non-industrialized nations. Exploration of institutional, class, and state interests that guide development processes, as well as alternative participatory development strategies.

RSOC 7700 METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (3) LEC. 3. Problem identification, hypothesis development and empirical analysis. Quantitative and qualitative procedures for obtaining social data using surveys, direct observation and secondary sources.

RSOC 7960 SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (1-3) LEC. Pr., departmental approval. Investigation of a problem in a particular area of interest involving an in-depth review of the literature, a research project, or an outreach education activity. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

RSOC 7970 SPECIAL TOPICS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (3) LEC. 3. Departmental approval. New topic in the area of rural sociology and community development.

RSOC 7990 RESEARCH AND THESIS (1-10) MST. In conjunction with the preparation of a thesis. Course may be repeated with change in topics.