

AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT 475/675  
**Management of Agricultural Systems**

Spring 2010 (Term: 1030)  
12:00-12:50 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, ABEN 208

Ganesh Bora, ABEN 105  
Phone: 701-231-7271  
E-mail: ganesh.bora@ndsu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment or drop in.

**Description:**

Capstone learning experience involving team solution to problems in agricultural systems management. Oral and written communications are emphasized. Two lectures, 2 credits. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

**Objectives:**

1. To gain experience in applying what has been learned in other ASM classes.
2. To gain experience in working as part of a team to solve a problem.
3. To gain experience in oral and written technical communications.
4. To interact with professionals in the field of agriculture.

**Procedure:**

1. Real-life problems will be jointly identified by students and instructor.
2. Teams of students will work together to develop a solution to the problem (Normal team size should be three).
3. Solutions of the problem should result in a final oral and written report of professional quality.
4. Final findings of the project will be presented to the class and critiqued by faculty and students.

**Student expectations:**

Active participation in class and as a contributing team member is an essential component of this class.

Grades will be determined based on:

1. Class participation and attendance
2. Faculty and student evaluation of presentations
3. Faculty evaluation of written reports
4. Student peer evaluation of participation

**Grading:**      Undergraduate (ASM 475)                      Graduate (ASM 675)

Participation and attendance	10%	Participation and attendance	10%
Presentations	25%	Presentations	25%
Written report: 1 <sup>st</sup> draft	5%	Written report: 1 <sup>st</sup> draft	5%
Written report: 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft	10%	Written report: 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft	10%
Final Report	40%	Final Report	40%
Team participation	10%	Team participation	10%

Grades:      A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=<60%

**Text:** Agricultural Systems Management: Optimizing Efficiency and Performance. Robert M. Peart and W. David Shoup. CRC Press

### General Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan. 13.....	Introduction
20.....	Discussion – potential projects
25.....	Managerial overview of Ag. systems
27.....	Group and project identification
Feb. 1.....	Project Management
3.....	Reliability of Ag systems
8.....	Project proposal presentations
10.....	Project proposal presentations
17.....	Economic feasibility studies
22.....	Fixed and variable cost of machinery
24.....	Project Work
Mar. 1.....	Optimization of resources and Project Scheduling
3.....	Charts, graphs, figures
8.....	Business plan – Mr. Scott Handy
10.....	Project monitoring and evaluation
15.....	Spring break
17.....	Spring break
22.....	References, citations and Library research
24.....	Technical writing – Ms. Mary Pull
29.....	Report writing
31.....	Report writing
Apr. 7.....	First Draft due
12.....	Feedback on written reports
14.....	Project Work/Report writing
19.....	Project Work/Report writing
21.....	Project Work/Report writing
26.....	Peer review of reports
28.....	Second Draft Due
May 3.....	Feedback on written reports
5.....	Project Work/Report writing
10.....	Final report presentations (1 pm – 3pm)
11.....	Final report Due (Hard copy and Electronic format)

(The schedules are subject to change and students will be notified of any changes well ahead of time.)

**All the reports should be submitted on time. Late submission of reports will not be accepted.**

### **Agricultural Technology Expo:**

Students are encouraged to participate in Ag Expo on Saturday, February 13, 2010 in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Building

Students with disabilities or other special needs, who need accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 355: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>).

All students taking any course in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources are under the Honor System. The Honor System is a process of student self-governing for those enrolled in courses in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. It operates on the premise that most students are honest and perform best in situations where their honesty, and the honesty of others, is not in doubt. Its primary function is to support the principles of integrity and honor, which are the cornerstones of academic success. The Honor System acts to limit academic dishonesty through the use of student self-supervision and to penalize those who are dishonest through the use of peer evaluation and penalty (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/honor.htm>).