

**AGEC 115: DECISION TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS**  
FALL 2024



**PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:** Walter Ac-Pangan  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment.  
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**COURSE CORRESPONDENCE:** Canvas (canvas.ksu.edu) will be utilized to post course notes, assignments, and other relevant materials. You are responsible for downloading files from Canvas for classroom discussions, homework, or assignments. If you encounter any difficulties opening or downloading any of the files for the course, please feel free to let me know. In addition to Canvas, you are required to check your KSU email regularly for class information.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:** A laptop with the Microsoft Office 365 package installed. K-State students receive multiple free installations for their devices. This course will be taught using a Windows-based version of Microsoft Excel. Students are expected to bring a laptop with Excel to class every lecture.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** Development of foundational computer-based empirical skills that address economic and business issues in food and agriculture. Students will be taught various features of Microsoft Excel to approach real-world issues and problems. AGEC 115 has an Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning K-State 8 tag.

This course is designed to prepare students for advanced courses in the Department of Agricultural Economics. AGEC 115 is required for AGEC 501: Data Analysis and Optimization. It is recommended for AGEC 500: Production Economics and AGEC 513: Agricultural Finance.

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- 1) Input data and develop data visuals in spreadsheet software.
- 2) Implement economic, statistical, and financial functions and equations.
- 3) Transform relevant problems into mathematical or spreadsheet models for analysis.

<b>Student Evaluations</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Assignment	6	30%
Quizzes	5	10%
Mid-Term Exams	2	40%
Final Project	1	10%
Professional Conduct (Participation, Attendance)	30	10%
		100%

Final grades will be allocated as A/B/C/D/F respectively using the standard 90/80/70/60/<60 scale.

**EXAMS:** Examinations will cover lecture materials. Tentative exam dates are Tuesday, October 1 (Exam 1) and Thursday, November 21 (Exam 2). Exams will be administered during regular lecture times. Exams will require students to solve spreadsheet-based problems and upload completed work to Canvas. No retakes or make-up exams will be allowed.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework will be given throughout the semester, covering topics from class lecture. Deadlines for assignments will be posted on the assignment. Students will be required to submit assignments as .xls or .xlsx files on Canvas. Collaboration with other students is welcomed; however, students are expected to provide their own answers. Students are encouraged to collaborate and discuss course material and assignments; however, you are expected to complete your own assignments. Students are prohibited from sharing and/or providing their assignments in any form.

**QUIZZES AND IN-CLASS EXERCISES:** During lectures, quizzes, and in-class exercises will be utilized to assess learning as well as track attendance. These activities will be given throughout the semester and may require a file upload or a graded quiz on Canvas. Your lowest one quiz score will be dropped.

**ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK:** Quizzes and in-class exercises cannot be made up for any reason and will automatically be lowest/dropped quiz. Please inform me via email at least 24 hours in advance when you will miss a lecture. If you must miss a scheduled exam, it is your responsibility to confer with me at least one week prior to your absence to receive permission to take a make-up, unless extenuating circumstances do not allow for it.

In case of an emergency, please email me and the office of student life within 24 hours of your absence. The office of student life has details at <https://www.k-state.edu/studentlife/> for absence verification.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:** All discourse with your fellow students and the instructor must be respectful and civil. Small talk should be kept to a minimum. Turn off or silence your cell phones before class begins.

Please do not send messages during class, either on your cellular device or computer. All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article V, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students with disabilities who need classroom accommodations, access to technology, or information about emergency building/campus evacuation processes should contact the Student Access Center and/or their instructor. Services are available to students with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, physical disabilities, medical conditions, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, depression, and anxiety. If you are a student enrolled in campus/online courses through the Manhattan campus, contact the Student Access Center at [accesscenter@k-state.edu](mailto:accesscenter@k-state.edu), 785-532-6441.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Kansas State University has an Honor and Integrity System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor and Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor and Integrity System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. A component vital to the Honor and Integrity System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

**MUTUAL RESPECT AND INCLUSION:** At K-State, faculty and staff are committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive and supportive learning environment for students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. K-State courses, labs, and other virtual and physical learning spaces promote equitable opportunity to learn, participate, contribute, and succeed, regardless of age, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, genetic information, ancestry, disability, socioeconomic status, military or veteran status, immigration status, Indigenous identity, gender identity, gender expression, sexuality, religion, culture, as well as other social identities.

Faculty and staff are committed to promoting equity and believe the success of an inclusive learning environment relies on the participation, support, and understanding of all students. Students are encouraged to share their views and lived experiences as they relate to the course or their course experience, while recognizing they are doing so in a learning environment in which all are expected to engage with respect to honor the rights, safety, and dignity of others in keeping with the K-State Principles of Community <https://www.k-state.edu/about/values/community/>.

If you feel uncomfortable because of comments or behavior encountered in this class, you may bring it to the attention of your instructor, advisors, and/or mentors. If you have questions about how to proceed with a confidential process to resolve concerns, please contact the Student Ombudsperson Office. Violations of the student code of conduct can be reported here <https://www.k-state.edu/sga/judicial/student-code-of-conduct.html>. If you experience bias or discrimination, it can be reported here <https://www.k-state.edu/report/discrimination/>.

### **DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

If a student is subjected to discrimination, harassment, or sexual harassment, they are encouraged to make a non-confidential report to the University's Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) using the online reporting form. Incident disclosure is not required to receive resources at K-State. Reports that include domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, should be considered for reporting by the complainant to the Kansas State University Police Department or the Riley County Police Department. Reports made to law enforcement are separate from reports made to OIE. A complainant can choose to report to one or both entities. Confidential support and advocacy can be found with the K-State Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE). Confidential mental health services can be found with Lafene Counseling and Psychological

Services (CAPS). Academic support can be found with the Office of Student Life (OSL). OSL is a non-confidential resource. OIE also provides a comprehensive list of resources on their website. If you have questions about non-confidential and confidential resources, please contact OIE at [equity@ksu.edu](mailto:equity@ksu.edu) or (785) 532–6220.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES:** Students are prohibited from using any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Bing AI, Bard or others, when completing course assignments. Use of these tools, or other similar generative AI tools, will not be tolerated and will be considered a violation of the Honor Pledge. Any incident detected will be addressed through the university's academic integrity procedures.

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The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments as needed throughout the semester.