

Assignment guidelines

Journal entries on Field trips: Each student must obtain a bound notebook to record their notes and observations from the field trips. No single sheet of papers will be accepted. **At the end of each field trip the note book must be submitted for evaluation (as you leave the bus).** There is no word length for the journal entry. The entries should contain some specific information, observations on the farm, questions that you might have and answers to some or all questions on each site visit that will be handed out. **Give an overall analysis of your impressions of the farm as it relates to social, environmental sustainability and if it is a viable operation.** The corrected journal will be returned on Monday. The journal entry will be given a letter grade depending on the information and summary. We understand the journal entries will be rough notes and that is fine. Point form is fine.

The field visits are an integral part of the course, and the starting point for class discussions will be based on observations you will make during the visits. If you have not participated in a visit, you may not submit a journal entry on that enterprise.

Marking scheme for the journals:

No marks will be removed for spelling but writing should be as legible as possible considering the situation

A : good details, comprehensive description of the farm, good analysis of the farm situation about problems, successes, issues, future

A- : good details, comprehensive description of the farm, some analysis of the farm situation about problems, successes, issues, future

B : some details, some analysis of the farm situation about problems, successes, issues, future

B- : missing critical details about the farm, wrong information, little analysis of the farm situation

C : incomplete in all aspects and or wrong information

Reflections: For each visit a brief description of the enterprise and possible questions will be handed out. On each Monday, following a visit, there will be a discussion on a theme(s) in agriculture and it will be in reference to the farm visited on the previous Friday. **For the reflection - the groups will choose five of the eleven discussions to do a write-up (see below). When the group leads a discussion, it cannot be submitted as a write-up.**

On the bus to the farm the groups will have an opportunity to discuss the week's visit and theme(s); after the discussion on the following Monday, the group will prepare a maximum 2-page, 1.5 spacing, 12 font "reflection" on the discussion, the themes and the farm. The group should consider the impact of the issue under discussion and any other critical issue(s) that is important to that farm. Two references are expected and must be cited in the reflection. It is group work. Due dates are Thursday midnight after the visit.

For each reflection: the coordinator /organizer must be given at the top of the document. The group number and names must be given at the top of the document. Please see "reflection rubric" on mycourses for marking scheme

Note – not everyone in the group may agree on the points – thus the body of the work can give opposing views. The "reflection" should reflect the opinions of the whole of the group. There is no specific right or wrong.

Group work and peer evaluation: The individual mark will be modified by a “peer multiplier” of the group work which will be completed after submission of the final group report. The Peer Multiplier will be used to adjust the individual mark. Each group member will give a score for each member of their working team as well as themselves. Scores can range from 0.5 to 1.1 and are given according to the member’s contribution to the group work. A group that worked perfectly together will receive unanimous scores of 1.0 for every member, indicating that work was shared equally within the team. Members who did extra work could receive up to 1.1; members who did less should receive less than 1.0, in proportion to the amount of work they contributed. Your assessment of your team members will remain confidential but it is a course requirement. If the peer evaluation is not handed in then that person will lose 20% from the discussion mark or the peer evaluation – whatever is lowest. Note that only one or two members of a group can receive more than 1.0 – not the entire group.

Group work can be difficult – you may not know the people in your group, it may be hard to meet and they may have different attitudes and values. However, team-work is an important component of the working life. Many times in reference requests employers or graduate studies ask about a prospective employee’s (student’s) ability to work in a team. For a group to be successful everyone must participate equally.

Leading a discussion (15 % : 7.5% for leading and 7.5 % for outline): Each group will have to provide a one page outline for the discussion. Note that the outline can be discussed on the bus ride back to the campus. If it is your group’s turn for leading the discussion come prepared to develop the outline during the bus ride. The group leading the discussion will be allowed to keep their journals until after the discussion on Monday. The outline must include 1) the chosen theme of the discussion (this is the choice of the group) and should show relevance to the Friday’s farm visit 2) four specific topics/issues to discuss and 3) for each topic explain why this topic/issue is relevant to the theme and the agricultural enterprise. The outline (as a file attachment) must be sent by email to both instructors by noon on the Monday of the discussion. Note: the group leading the discussion will NOT do a reflection for that week.