

"I really felt confident with what I had learned at school and I am well equipped for my job. Thanks for the last four years at MSU!"



Follow the Grain class in Hangzhou, China

Our Faculty

Faculty members in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics have expertise in a wide variety of fields. We teach undergraduate courses in agricultural marketing, agricultural finance, agricultural management, agricultural law, economics and the environment, international economics and trade, as well as multidisciplinary courses on agriculture in a global science and marketing environment. We take an active interest in our students, and each student is assigned a faculty member who serves as the student's advisor. The one-on-one contact with faculty in our department has consistently received high praise from our students.



DAEE Faculty

"I'm satisfied with the education I've received and have thoroughly enjoyed being in this department!"

"To get a decent education while experiencing all that Montana has to offer was incredible."

Our Location

Montana State University is located in scenic Bozeman, Montana.

As cited in National Geographic Adventure Magazine: "... Bozeman, Montana, sits at the center of a picture-book American landscape: a Western town, plugged into a golden valley rimmed by peaks dusted with snow. Head any direction out of town and year-round adventure awaits." Bozeman is the home of the American Simmental Association and is host to the Western Regional National College Rodeo Finals.

In August 2010, *Outside Magazine* ranked Bozeman among the top "25 Dream Towns" to live and play in, and the No. 1 Best Skiing in the West.



More Information

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Montana State University, the state's land-grant institution, educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities by integrating learning, discovery and engagement.



Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics

Agricultural Business

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics offers two degree programs: a major in agricultural business and a major in economics. This brochure describes the agricultural business major.

"I feel that the courses I have taken have prepared me for the job world. I look forward to applying the information I have learned in the work environment."

Agricultural business is a dynamic industry that is becoming increasingly global and technologically sophisticated. A degree in agricultural business at Montana State University provides students with skills that allow continued personal and professional growth as this industry progresses.



MSU Linfield Hall

"I wanted to tell you that the MSU Agricultural Economics and Economics Department has taught me well. I am well equipped for my new job."

Degree Options

There are two options within the agricultural business major: agribusiness management and farm and ranch management.

- **Agribusiness Management Option:** The agribusiness sector of the economy, which produces and sells goods and services to farmers and ranchers on one hand, and processes and markets agricultural commodities on the other, is growing rapidly. In the United States, for every job in agricultural production, there are approximately three jobs in agriculture-related businesses. The MSU agribusiness management curriculum has established an excellent reputation with employers and is specifically designed for management training with emphasis on finance, accounting, and managerial economics in agriculture-related businesses and industries.

Many of our graduates work for regional, national, and even international agribusiness firms that market, process, and transport agricultural products. Other graduates work for companies that service agriculture by supplying inputs to producers. Agricultural credit institutions employ many of our graduates. Some of our graduates continue their education by pursuing graduate degrees or attending law school.

- **Farm and Ranch Management Option:** For a student who expects to work in agricultural production and eventually own and operate a farm or ranch, the farm and ranch management option provides a vital set of management skills for success in undertaking the investment and complicated business aspects of farming and ranching. The future farm or ranch manager needs to be familiar with marketing, finance, business management, and the global agribusiness system in which production agriculture operates. Farm and ranch management is a strong academic program designed to provide marketing, management, and finance skills. This curriculum is supplemented with courses that emphasize technical agricultural issues.

Job Opportunities

The growing complexity of the global food system, coupled with advances in food production, processing, biotechnology, and changes in government policy will spur demand for agricultural business majors. Indeed, the growing need for well-trained students with knowledge of agricultural production, marketing, finance, and policy is expected to result in additional jobs in the future.

"The course content was very worthwhile. It is nice to take a course that applies to the real world as strongly as this one does"

Placement of Recent Majors

Many of our agricultural business and economics graduates are employed by a wide variety of agribusinesses. Others successfully manage their own farm or ranch. Many have used their degree as a foundation for advanced study.

Placements of recent graduates include:

- CHS, Inc.
- Northwest Farm Credit Services
- Archer Daniels Midland
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- U.S. Bank, Denver CO
- Northwestern Mutual Life – Financial Services
- Columbia Grain Company
- Montana Department of Agriculture

Graduate school placements of our recent graduates include:

- University of California Berkeley
- North Carolina State University
- University of California Davis
- Purdue University
- University of Maryland
- University of Washington
- Washington State University

Earnings

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), while employment of self-employed farmers and ranchers is projected to decrease slightly through 2018, employment of farm, ranch, and other agricultural managers is expected to grow by about 6 percent between 2008 and 2018. As more farms are owned by either corporations or absentee owners, agricultural managers will play a relatively larger role in the operation of farms. The completion of a bachelor's degree at a college of agriculture is becoming increasingly important for farm managers and for farmers and ranchers who expect to make a living at farming.

The BLS reports that full-time, salaried agricultural managers had median annual earnings of \$66,360 in 2016¹. The median annual wages of purchasing agents and buyers of farm products were \$60,700 in 2016².



*Agriculture in a Emerging Economy
Ukraine*



*Agriculture in a Global Context
New Zealand*

I enjoyed the information in class because it was very applicable."

¹ Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016.

² Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016.