

ARE 433: Agricultural Policy Guidelines for Agricultural Policy Paper

With this handout, I am giving you some additional details about the policy paper that is required as a part of this class. I'll remind you that this paper will count as 15% of your total grade. I want you to use the tools and knowledge that you have gained in this class to develop a paper that presents an analysis of a particular agricultural policy topic. You are free to choose your own topic, with a few restrictions. First, you cannot write on a topic that you are writing on for another class (e.g., ARE 311). Second, I am going to limit the number of papers that can be done on any single topic to 2. I don't want 50 papers on tobacco policy and thus the topics will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. I have listed below a number of topics from which you can choose for your paper. Alternatively, you can propose any alternative topic relevant to agricultural policy. You will need to have my approval in either case. You should send me an email with your first and second choices for topics and I will let you which you should write on.

Guidelines

Here are a few points that should help you understand what I expect.

- The paper should be no more than 7 double-spaced, typed pages. There is no minimum length, but your grade will certainly reflect the thoroughness with which you address the topic.
- Your discussion should include the history of the policy (e.g., did it begin as a part of New Deal legislation?).
- I highly recommend that you consider including data to illustrate the points pertinent to your paper. A great source for such data is the ERS web site, which is linked on our class web site.
- You should provide a detailed discussion of who the policy was intended to benefit, who it actually benefits, and who is potentially harmed by the policy. Examples of the latter include taxpayers, producers in other countries, and other producers.
- The paper is due on the last regular class meeting, with no exceptions. You can submit the paper electronically (in pdf format) through the moodle web site. Alternatively, you can email it to me or turn it in directly.

Suggested Topics:

1. The U.S. tobacco program
2. The U.S. peanut program
3. U.S. feed grains programs
4. The Common Agricultural Policy of the E.U.
5. State Trading Enterprises in International Markets (e.g., the Canadian Wheat Board)
6. Concerns and policies regarding mergers and acquisitions in the U.S. food sector

7. Livestock waste management in North Carolina
8. Crop Insurance
9. U.S. disaster relief policies
10. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
11. Export enhancement and market development programs
12. Policy issues affecting U.S. livestock producers
13. The Conservation Security Program
14. The Soil Bank
15. Farmland preservation programs
16. Public grazing permits
17. U.S. dairy policy
18. Subsidized credit programs
19. Rural development programs of the U.S.
20. The Army Corps of Engineers and flood control
21. The wool and mohair program
22. The honey program
23. Programs affecting fruits and vegetables
24. Subsidized water in the western U.S.
25. Wetlands policies and their relationship to agriculture
26. Agricultural policy issues relating to the enlargement of the European Union
27. The U.S. sugar program
28. The land grant university system and federal funding
29. The federal extension service
30. The Staggers Act and its effects on grain trade
31. Issues relating to grade and quality standards
32. The Tennessee Valley Authority
33. Canada's income stabilization program
34. The food for peace program
35. The Clean Air and Water Act and implications for U.S. agriculture