

Dr. Burt
BalE 240C
Ph: 541-737-1436
E-mail: larry.burt@oregonstate.edu

MW Noon -1:50
STAG 132

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
AREc 372, Spring Term 2007 (CRN 32630)

Course Objective: That you will acquire a working knowledge of the concepts, principles and terminology of agricultural cooperatives through readings, participation in seminar presentations by guest speakers, work on related case studies, and a tour of selected ag cooperatives in the Willamette Valley.

Prerequisites: None.

Readings: Materials provided in class include "A Brief Introduction to Ag Cooperatives" (EM 8665) and "Ag Cooperative Education: Developing and Using Case Studies" (AREc Staff Paper, SP 03-102).

Sessions: The detailed schedule is:

April 2

Topic: Introductory thoughts.

April 9

Topic: Cooperative membership and control.

Speaker: Mark Dickman, an industry leader and Silverton Oregon farm manager, will speak from the perspective of a cooperative member including board experience.

Background

Reading: EM 8665, pages 1-22 (overview ideas) and pages 32 (The nature and role of cooperative directors) through 34 (Cooperative influences on public policy). SP 03-102: Pages 1-6 (philosophical thoughts about the use of case studies) and the case study on cooperative membership and control, "Planning for Survival," starting on page 6.

April 11

Case Study

Topic: Cooperative membership and control, "Planning for Survival," Page 6, SP 03-102.

April 16

Topic: Cooperative management.

Speaker: Pat McAllister, a veteran ag cooperative manager, will speak from a management perspective.

Background

Reading: EM 8665, pages 28 (Cooperative management characteristics) through 31 (Management's role in strategic planning). SP 03-102: the case study on cooperative management, "To Stay or Not to Stay," starting on Page 10.

April 18

Case Study

Topic: Cooperative management, "To Stay or Not to Stay." Page 10, SP 03-102.

April 23

Topic: Relationships and linkages between independent, federated and centralized cooperatives.

Speaker: Dave Bielenberg, Immediate-Past Director, CHS, Inc. and Silverton, Oregon farm manager, is an industry leader who has the perspective of cooperative interrelationships at the local, regional and national levels.

Background

Reading: EM 8665, pages 35-36 (Relationships and linkages among cooperatives). SP 03-102: the case study on relationships and linkages between independent, federated and centralized cooperatives, "To Merge or Not to Merge," starting on Page 14.

April 25

Case Study

Topic: Relationships and linkages between independent, federated and centralized cooperatives, "To Merge or Not to Merge," Page 14, SP 03-102.

April 30

Topic: A one-day tour of selected ag cooperatives in the Willamette Valley. A variety of businesses will be included. Plan on a full day and be ready for the possibility of cool, wet weather. All expenses for students in the class are covered including commercial bus transportation, lunch and dinner.

Speaker: None. The class will hear from a number of knowledgeable people throughout the day.

Background

Reading: Complete all remaining sections of EM 8665 not previously covered.

Grading: This 2.0 credit class is graded on a Pass/No-Pass basis. To earn a Pass, participation is required at all meetings of the class including seminars, case study days, and the day-long tour. In rare instances, an absence will be excused by the instructor provided that the student communicates about a serious matter in advance and receives approval from the instructor. A make-up assignment will typically be required. An unexcused absence is grounds for a No-Pass grade.