ECON 496: TRAVEL COURSE
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUSINESS, AND TRADE IN SPAIN
RESEARCH PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to learn more about some aspect of agricultural business or trade that involves both the United States and Spain, and to share this information with the rest of the class.

Topics:
- A common agricultural commodity that is traded between the U.S. and Spain.
- A policy, institution or program that affects agricultural business and trade in the U.S. and Spain.

A commodity research paper should include the following basic information:

Part 1.
- History and origin of the commodity
- Production in the U.S.: Analysis of U.S. production (look at last 5-10 years, at least)
- Consumption in the U.S.: Animal feed, human consumption, exports, industrial use, etc.
- Commercialization in the U.S.: Main institutions and issues regarding the marketing channel for the commodity in the U.S.
- U.S. trade: Destination of U.S. exports and origin of U.S. imports, especially focusing on trade with Spain.
- Effects of free trade agreements, tariffs and quotas, subsidies, etc. on production and trade, especially over the last decade

Part 2.
- Similar information to part 1, but from the Spanish perspective.
- Problems and issues related to U.S.-Spain trade, prospects for the future.

A policy, institution or program research paper should contain the following basic information:

Part 1.
- History and origins
- Purpose and objectives. What problems was it created to address?
- How is it supposed to function?

Part 2.
- How does it appear to function in Spain?
- How does it affect trade, production, and consumption in/between the U.S. and Spain today?
- What opinion do people in Spain have of it?
- What are the issues of challenges in the future for it?

The total paper length (part 1 + part 2) should be about 20-25 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font. Examples of projects from previous years are available at http://www.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ496/ience/spring2004/

Sources of information:
- Chapters 23 through 29 of agricultural marketing book:
- Internet searches
- ISU library
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (www.usda.gov, FATUS)
- Web sites from the Spanish government, etc.

Grading: Each part of the project will be separately graded based on the following weights:
- Oral presentation 30%
- Information 40%
- Organization 15%
- Style 15%