AGRON/ECON 496: TRAVEL COURSE

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUSINESS, AND TRADE IN ARGENTINA

TRIP REPORT

The Trip Report is the permanent record of your travel and will be due the last class meeting, Wednesday of Dead Week (April 29, 2009). It is the tangible evidence of your learning during the trip and should reflect your best efforts. Content, grammar, and presentation will be evaluated. The report should be more than a travel log; it should be an evaluative summary of your observations during travel. You will be seeing many new (and exciting) things; this will allow you to compare those things to your existing experiences. Areas to include are cultural, educational, and agricultural activities. Late reports will receive a reduced score equaling 10% per day (M-F). The reports will be graded by all three course instructors.

Please organize your report and label the sections in the following manner, which will facilitate grading and ensure that your materials are complete.

TRIP REPORT CONTENTS

Section 1. **Introduction.** This sets the stage of timing and facts leading up to the trip. It addresses your feelings and expectations of the travel.

Section 2. **Body.** This section is broken into three separate sections centered on cultural, educational, and agricultural experiences or stops. Remember, some of your most revealing cultural experiences may be during ‘free time’ when you are alone or with a small group of fellow travelers. Your group cultural, educational, or agricultural stops must be included in this section. It is best to organize this section in chronological order. Pictures will greatly aid your professional presentation and will be important for your memories in years to come. Either plan to take your own photos or work with others to record the events. Remember, this is not merely a travel log, but it is an interpretative summary of your learning.

   a) **Details of the experience or stop.** These details are quickly lost with time so be sure to record them in your notes at the first opportunity.

   b) **A narrative description of the experience.** This should include your assessment of the experience. Relate it to your background culturally, educationally, or agriculturally. What was noteworthy? You should record these thoughts in your journal, perhaps at the end of each day.

   c) **An evaluative statement.** This is best done upon reflection, perhaps after returning to the USA. What did this experience mean to you in helping form your overall assessment of the learning experience?

Section 3. **Overall summary and conclusions of the travel experience.**

Section 4. **A summary of your topical report findings.** During your travel, you likely will have an opportunity to expand your knowledge of your topical area. Furthermore, after travel, you will evaluate conditions/resources in the USA and make comparative evaluations between the USA and Argentina. Section 4 should include your pre-trip and post-trip fact sheets and a summary of your findings. Additionally, it should include a written comparative summary of the two countries (perhaps this will take 5 pages to be complete). This written summary is the basis for your post-trip fact sheet and oral presentation.

Section 5. **Raw Notes.** These are the detailed daily notes that you took during each stop. Use the questions provided in the spiral-bound notebook to help you document factual information, key observations, reflections and feelings about each stop. Take time at each stop, during bus travel, or in the evening to reflect on the daily stops. These notes are to be in your own words in a form you can read and understand. Instructors may wish to review with you your notes during travel, especially to ensure that you are taking adequate notes. Use these raw notes to formulate your Trip Report upon returning to Ames. You are required to submit your raw notes as an attachment to your report or contained in a pouch at the end of your report.