

AGRON/ECON 496: TRAVEL COURSE

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUSINESS, AND TRADE IN SPAIN

GUIDELINES FOR FACT SHEETS

Objective:

The objective of the fact sheets is to help students understand the country visited. The pre-trip fact sheet talks about conditions in Spain and the post-trip factsheet makes comparisons between the visited country and the U.S.

Topic:

The fact sheets should focus on either:

1. A specific aspect (e.g., commercialization, production) of an agricultural commodity, good, or resource of relevance to both the U.S. and Spain, or
2. A policy, institution or program that affects agricultural business and trade in the U.S. and Spain.

Examples of topics include the following:

- A commodity market (e.g., corn, wheat, canola, beef, sheep, oranges, milk, sugar, etc.)
- Agricultural policies, agricultural credit, and/or agricultural research in the U.S and Spain.
- Impact of trade agreements on the U.S. and Spain.
- Comparison of the evolution of agriculture in the U.S. and Spain.
- Soils, climate, and/or production systems.

The list above is not exclusive; students are encouraged to investigate other topics relevant to the course objectives.

Each student must e-mail instructors by 1/19/10 a list of three proposed topics in order of preference. To be acceptable, the proposed topics should be sufficiently descriptive of the intended content of the fact sheets (e.g., "Commercialization of Corn" is acceptable, but "Corn" is not). Topics will be assigned on a first-come basis and will be finalized at the second class meeting (1/20/10).

Overview:

The fact sheets should summarize the key information to understand the topic. For example, commodity market fact sheets should include at a minimum the following basic information:

- Production (e.g., trends in production over the last 5-10 years) and consumption (e.g., animal feed, human consumption, exports, industrial use, etc.)
- Commercialization (e.g., main institutions and issues regarding the marketing channel for the commodity)
- Trade (e.g., destination of exports and origin of imports)
- Effects of free trade agreements, tariffs and quotas, subsidies, etc. on production and trade

In the case of policy, institution or program fact sheets, at a minimum the following basic information should be reported:

- Background information (e.g., history and origins)
- Purpose and objectives (e.g., what problems was it created to address?)
- How is it supposed to function?
- What are the main positive and negative economic effects?
- What are the key issues or challenges in the future for it?
- How does it affect trade, production, and consumption?

Pre- and Post-Trip Fact Sheets:

The pre-trip fact sheet will focus on the topic as it pertains to Spain, whereas the post-trip fact sheet will look at the topic from a US-Spain comparative perspective (compare and contrast). The post-trip fact sheet may also include new findings on the topic learned from the trip.

Oral Presentations:

Each student will present brief oral summaries of both the pre- and post-fact sheets. Presentations should last 6 to 7 minutes, with an additional 1 to 2 minutes allocated for questions and answers.