Ag Issues Final Essay Questions
Winter 2005
Due April 28 by 5:30 pm in BH 730

Attach type-written answer to the following questions

1. List the three most important issues facing agriculture in the near (5-15 years) future and explain why they are important.

2. Choose one of the three issues you listed in previous question. Briefly discuss the two sides (or more perspectives, if more exist); that is, give the pros and cons of the issue or policy. In other words, show us that you have considered both sides of the issue. A list with a sentence or two of explanation or description is fine for the pros and cons.

3. How has this class changed your perspective as it relates to these issues.

4. Answer two of the following topic-specific questions (½ page each):
   a. What do the facts that only 2% of the U.S. population is involved in Agriculture and the American public only spends 10% of their income on food tell you (good or bad) about American Agriculture?
   b. If you could go back in time and change the way that public lands were distributed, what would you have done differently and why?
   c. We as 20th century consumers appear to be faced with more food safety issues. What might be some of the causes for these additional issues? Are they related to Agricultural production or societal change?
   d. While we have discussed several potential benefits and hazards of genetic engineering to society, will there come a time when we will just accept this technology? Why or why not?
   e. How have economic trends and policy influenced the decline of profitability in Agriculture?
f. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of placing agricultural land into a land trust such as the ones described by Katherine Roser.

g. List and describe three government programs, as discussed by Krista Neil, that could be beneficial to Agricultural producers as well as the surrounding community.

h. With the rising price of gasoline and diesel, more people are looking at ethanol as an alternative. Do you think it is a viable and sustainable alternative? Why or why not.

i. Briefly discuss your primary concerns relative to how water has been allocated in the West and how it is currently being used.

5. Select one of the group presentations given the past three weeks and write a one page response to the information presented.