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“Master’s Programs in Agricultural Economics: Situation and Analysis”



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Master's Programs in Agricultural Economics: Situation and Analysis

Abstract

While interest in agricultural graduate programs increases throughout the nation (Krogstad, 2012), there is a lack of comprehensive information characterizing Master's programs in agricultural economics. This study will examine Master's programs in agricultural economics (or equivalent, including resource economics, applied economics, and agribusiness) at U.S. land grant universities and categorize commonalities, differences, strengths and positive aspects. The research identified a common core structure among the existing agricultural economics Master's programs, as well as differentiating characteristics contributing to the individuality and viability of each program.

Keywords

Agricultural economics, master's degree, agribusiness, graduate education, online education

Background

Agricultural universities are modifying their roles to align with the evolving global agri-food supply chain (National Research Council, 2009). These modifications include increased opportunities for international and online learning. In this context, organized information specifying and evaluating current graduate program characteristics will provide a practical guide in agricultural economics education. Such information will be similar to the results of Phillips (2005), which entailed an investigation of the websites of departments of agricultural economics in the U.S.

Objective

The objective of this study is to identify the key components of agricultural economics Master's programs at land grant universities throughout the United States and develop a document outlining program characteristics. The comparative guide (Appendix A), to be used as a tool by prospective Master's students in agricultural economics, professors, selected employers, and professionals in related fields, includes a detailed analysis of program factors. These factors include size and quality of faculty (determined by faculty awards), extent of Master's degree & Ph.D offerings, existence of a job candidates page, online accessibility, and awards earned by faculty and students. Through this analysis, we identify those characteristics that serve to distinguish programs and opportunities to strengthen applicable programs, as needed.

Data & Methods

The research team initially developed a comprehensive register of Master's in agricultural economics programs offered by U.S. land grant agricultural economics departments, including the web addresses and departmental information of such programs. From this list of 52 universities, extensive data were accessed from web sites of the identified Master's programs. Data were then organized into a comprehensive guide (Appendix A) of program characteristics.

Appendix A provides information for each university in the following categories: university and location, agricultural economics Master's programs and departments, core requirements, interdisciplinary offerings, faculty and students awards, facilities, and additional comments. The guide also notes if the departments have a Ph.D program and whether or not a thesis is required for the completion of a Master's degree.

Where available, we also consider data on student job placement and Ph.D. acceptance rates. Several departments boast of successful job placement rates on their independent websites including UC Berkeley, UC Davis, University of Wisconsin, Purdue University, Michigan State University, Oregon State University and Colorado State University. Job placement statistics for various agricultural economics programs have been summarized from university websites and the USDA's (2012) job placement report.

All data were then analyzed to identify positive aspects of existing programs. Positive attributes were measured through departmental strengths such as multiple agricultural economics Master's degree offerings in more than one department, ample opportunities for interdisciplinary

work, extensive agricultural facilities, progressive and distance learning options, a continuing Ph.D option, and faculty and student awards.

Results

The research identified a common basic structure among the existing agricultural economics Master's programs. Commonalities include core subject requirements, thesis vs. non-thesis tracks and interdisciplinary learning opportunities.

All the universities, and agricultural economics degrees in various departments, have a similar set of required courses for the Master's degree. The core requirements are consistently designed to prepare students for modernizing businesses and agricultural systems through specialization in economics, natural resources, and environmental issues. These requirements include, but are not limited to, microeconomics, macroeconomics, agricultural economics, marketing, finance, agribusiness, econometrics, mathematics for economic analysis, natural resources, agricultural policy and research methods. Over 90% of the departments, or equivalent programs in respective departments, give graduate students the option of a thesis or non-thesis track. The non-thesis tracks require the completion of a comprehensive exam, research paper, internship, or specialized project.

A majority of the departments also required coursework in international economic development and international trade and policy. In 2006, The National Food & Agribusiness Management Education Commission (NFAMEC), created by the USDA Higher Education Program, conducted an extensive study of agribusiness programs in over 160 U.S. universities. They found a need to further internationalize agribusiness management curricula to meet an

increasingly globalized marketplace and agribusiness firms' increasing need for employees with greater levels of international knowledge (National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission, 2013). In a follow up study, faculty vitas and publications of these universities' agricultural economics departments were gathered to assess the international experience and learning opportunities available in each program (Boland, 2012). Conclusions from Boland's study are consistent with findings in our research indicating that larger agricultural economics departments generally have stronger international learning opportunities, including international course offerings and study abroad programs. The larger, well-versed departments in international education include UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Cornell University, Michigan State, University of Minnesota, Ohio State University, Purdue University and Texas A&M University.

In addition to commonalities, the data gathered identifies distinctive attributes that strengthen the quality of agricultural economics departments. Unique offerings include opportunities for interdisciplinary work, study abroad opportunities, off campus internships, student clubs, extensive research farms, seed laboratories or field facilities, distance learning opportunities, and progressive course topics (e.g., institutional economics). These characteristics, expanded upon below, provide unique, specialized learning opportunities that enhance agricultural economics Master's programs.

Research notes that viable and strong agricultural economics programs must provide interdisciplinary opportunities cultivating critical thinking and diversity of thought (Boland & Akridge, 2004). In researching the updated agricultural economics curricula in various departments, it can be gathered that interdisciplinary opportunities are offered in a majority of

the land grant universities. These opportunities include collaborations between departments, most commonly departments of Food and Life Sciences, Soil Sciences, Urban and Regional Planning, Forest and Wildlife Ecology, Environmental and Natural Resources, Animal Sciences, Plant Sciences and Agricultural Education.

Given the value of interdisciplinary opportunities, it is important to track exceptional facilities, such as farms, laboratories and field labs that provide a strong platform for interdisciplinary study in agricultural economics. The guide has a facilities column identifying relevant agricultural facilities. Markedly, agricultural facilities at the land grant universities that lend themselves to interdisciplinary study are research farms, greenhouses, experimental labs, agricultural and resource economics libraries and soil science labs. UC Davis, University of Delaware and Oregon State University have large acreage student farms and accompanying interdisciplinary curricula. Other universities with extensive greenhouses, growing chambers, field labs, and soil science labs include Clemson University and Washington State University.

An additional strength of agricultural economics programs identified in current literature is the ability to combine extension and distance learning programs with graduate programs (Ward, et al, 2011). Several agricultural economics departments have developed cutting edge distance learning programs designed for working professionals interested in enhancing their agribusinesses or management skills.

Agricultural economics graduate programs are differentiated and strengthened by higher numbers of faculty and student awards (National Research Council, 2013). The awards are used as a measurement tool because of their ability to indicate a productive and talented faculty fostering relevant research and respected, rigorous programs. The guide highlights significant

awards received by faculty members in outstanding graduate teaching, mentoring, distance instruction, and journal publications from prominent organizations such as AAEA, WAEA, USDA and National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. The guide also indicates awards for student theses, predominantly from AAEA, with universities such as UC Davis, University of Wisconsin, Cornell, and Purdue University having the greatest amount of student awards. While faculty and students in most agricultural economics departments have received some level of awards and recognition, it can be noted that certain universities are distinguished in this category including UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Cornell University, University of Illinois, Purdue University and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Strengths identified in the guide can be measured against national university rankings. As a reference for interested faculty and prospective students, university ratings are included (Appendix B) from US News & World Report (2012).

Conclusions & Implications for Future Research

Comparative data, gathered through this research, clearly identifies commonalities and differentiated strengths in agricultural economics departments at land grant institutions throughout the United States.

It can be concluded that relevant commonalities include core subject requirements, thesis vs. non-thesis tracks and interdisciplinary learning opportunities. Differentiating characteristics include study abroad opportunities, off campus internships and student clubs, extensive research farms, seed laboratories or field facilities, distance learning opportunities, and progressive course topics.

It would be beneficial to take this guide and further explore the relationship between program specifics and published ratings of graduate programs. For example, it would be interesting to see if departments with interdisciplinary study have Master's programs that are ranked higher than programs in departments that do not have interdisciplinary study opportunities. Another area of future research could include the examination of Master's degree programs in agriculture education and agribusiness at other universities, namely, public universities that are not land grant universities and private universities. A final suggestion for future research is an overall analysis of the cost of tuition and fees associated with these agricultural programs.

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University Agricultural Economic Master's Program Components								
University & Location	Master's Programs & Dept. Ph.D?	Thesis/Non-Thesis Track	Core Requirements	Interdisciplinary Offerings (if applicable)	Awards (Faculty & Students)	Facilities	Comments	
Alabama A & M University Normal, Alabama	1. Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Agribusiness Education	Thesis & Non-thesis	Advanced Curriculum Development	Rural Development	*No awards listed on website or easily accessible through internet search.			
			Advanced Educational Research	Agricultural Financial Dev				
			Advanced Evaluation of Teaching	International Financing				
			Research in Agribusiness Education	Macroeconomics for MBA				
			Continuing Education in Agriculture	Microeconomics Theory				
			Computer Applications in Agribusiness	Management Information Systems				
	2. Master of Education Degree (M.Ed.) in Agribusiness Education	Thesis & Non-thesis	Research in Agribusiness Education					
			Continuing Education in Agriculture					
			Computer Applications in Agribusiness					
			Seminar in Agricultural Education					
			Implementation of Education Programs (for handicapped & disadvantaged)					
			Advanced Teaching Methods in Agribusiness Education					
3. Master of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agribusiness Management	Thesis & Non-thesis	Agricultural Economics						
		Advanced Agricultural Marketing						
		Research Methods in Agribusiness						
		Advanced Agribusiness Management						
		Agricultural Policy	* Internship at off-campus agribusiness firm or government agency required for all programs.					
		Managerial Economics						
University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona	1. Masters of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agricultural Education	Thesis & Non-thesis	Research, Methods & Project Design	Graduate Interdisciplinary	Faculty Awards WAEA (Professional Excellence) WAEA (Distinguished Extension) WAEA (Distinguished Research) WAEA (Best Published Research) AAEA (Outstanding PhD Thesis) AAEA (Quality of Research) Society for Technical Communication National Academy of Sciences			
			Program Planning	Programs (GDPs) available for all graduate programs.				
			Workshop on Teaching					
			Teacher Intro: AG Education					
			Internship					
			Research/ Ind Study Units					
	2. Masters of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering	Thesis required.	Bio Products Engineering			Student Awards American AG Economics Association National Association of Teachers of AG AAEA (Research) AAEA (Travel)		
			Bio Energy Engineering					
			Controlled Environment Engineering					
			Safe Food, Feed & Fiber					
			Biosystem Engineering					
			Water Resources Engineering					
3. Masters of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agricultural and Resource Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Natural Resource Development						
		International Business						
		Into to Agribusiness						
		International AG Economic Development						
		Natural Resource Economics						
		*course offering lead to PhD track						
Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in AG & Resource Economics (offered in conjunction with Dept of Economics)								
University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas	1. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Agricultural Marketing Theory	Cross educational offerings	Faculty Emerald Literati Network Int. Directory of Distinguished Leadership SAEA (First Place Poster) AAEA (Best Doctoral Thesis) Jastro-Shields (Research) USDA (AG Research Service)			
			Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness	available through a collaboration with the College of Agriculture, Food & Life Sciences.				
			Microeconomic Theory					
			Mathematics for Economic Analysis					
			Econometrics					
			Seminar					
	2. Joint Masters of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development with the US- EU Atlantis Program	Thesis Required	Specialized			Student Awards Arkansas Research Competition Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board		
			Two year program (with one year spent in Europe)	Study abroad required for 12 month in an EU Country.				
3. Master of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agricultural and Extension Education	Thesis & Non-thesis	Research Methodology in Social Sciences		Extensive distance learning component.				
		Interpreting Social Data in AG						
		Technical Communication in Social Sciences						
		Philosophy of AG & Extension Education						
3. Master of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences	Thesis & Non-thesis	Food Toxicology		Extensive distance learning component through Extension Education.				
		Human Diseases						
		Food Law						
		Research Methodology in Social Sciences	Cross educational offerings available through a collaboration with the College of Agricultural Economics.					
		Statistics in Education						
		Statistical Process Control						
Auburn University Auburn, Alabama	1. Master of Science Degree (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis Required	Microeconomics		Dept of AG Economics: 23 full time faculty, 6 off-campus extension economists & 5 adjunct faculty. Faculty Awards John Helmut Award Organization for Competitive Markets USDA (Special Merits Award) WAEA (Published Research Award) Greater Birmingham Chapter (International Educator Award) SAEA (Lifetime Achievement Award) SAEA (Distinguished Professional) Southern Decision Sciences Institute			
			Mathematical Economics					
			Introduction to Econometrics					
			Research Methods					
	2. Master of Agriculture Degree in Agricultural Economics	Non-thesis	Specialized with Major Professor:					
			Broad graduate training in Agriculture, Agricultural Economics or Rural Sociology					
			Special Projects (Research Paper)					
3. Master of Business Administration Degree (M.B.A.) in Agribusiness		Specialized with Advisor:		Coordinated with the College of Business (interdisciplinary study required).				
		(24 units in business & 12 units in AG Econ)						
		Including:						
		Agribusiness						

			Natural Resources Environmental Management		MBA program has drawn high rankings from <i>Forbes Magazine</i> & <i>Financial Times</i> .	
University of California, Berkeley San Francisco Bay Area	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Resource Economics	Thesis Required	Probability & Statistics Mathematic Methods for AG & Resource Economics Applied Econometrics Economics & Policy of Production Microeconomics of Development International Economic Development Environmental & Resource Economics Special Study Individual Research	Interdisciplinary training option: with the College of Natural Resources, Economics Dept., & Haas Business School.		Best placement history of any Agricultural & Resource Economics Dept. in the world. Job placements posted on website.
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) In AG & Resource Economics				Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (7 total awards since 1967: 7th highest amount)	
University of California, Davis Sacramento Valley	1. Master of Science in Agricultural & Resource Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (comprehensive written exam)	Microeconomics Theory Microeconomics Application Econometrics Mathematical Programming Development Economics Environmental & Resource Economics International Trade & Policy	Unrestricted Elective Courses Required: Are determined with advisor to meet students special interests & can be cross-disciplinary.	Faculty Awards: AAEA (Distinguished Graduate Teaching) AAEA (Excellent Thesis Supervisor) AAEA (Quality of Communication) AAES (Best AG Econ Article) WAEA (Outstanding Published Research)	Student Farm AG & Resource Econ Library (One of Largest in the world) Faculty act as colleagues. Large # of faculty/ publications & professors readily available. posted on website.
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) In Agricultural & Resource Economics				Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (18 total awards since 1967: highest amount)	
Clemson University Clemson, South Carolina	1. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Applied Economics & Statistics	Thesis, Non-thesis, Professional or Peace Corps. International Option	Applied Economic Analysis Microeconomic Theory Macroeconomic Theory Regression & Least Squares Analysis Econometrics Design of Experiments	Faculty from the Department of Economics, Department of Mathematical Sciences & College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences collaboratively teach the core & elective classes for Master's program.		Agricultural Service Lab Program is no longer in the school of AG, but a collaboration between 3 departments.
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) In Applied Economics					
Colorado State University Fort Collins, Colorado	1. Master's of Agriculture (M.Agr.) in Agricultural Sciences	No Thesis Required (Professional Paper & Final Exam)	Integrated Decision Making Building the Business Managing for Ecosystem Sustainability Managing Animal Resources Animal Production Systems Integrated Forage Management Analyzing & Managing the Business Understanding Policy & Emerging Issues Products to Profit Integrated Resource Management Plan *Internship Required			M.Agr. is fully online-designed for working professionals. (small faculty of 5)
	2. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Resource Economics	No Thesis Required (Professional Paper & Final Exam)	Microeconomic Analysis Agricultural Production Economics Agricultural Product Marketing Applied Econometrics Social Benefit Cost Analysis Agricultural Policy			16 full-time faculty & 32 students-good ratio Theses available posted on website.
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) In Agricultural & Resource Economics					
University of Connecticut Storrs, Connecticut	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Resource Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (major paper or exam)	Microeconomics Econometrics Environmental & Resource Economics Benefit Cost Analysis/ Resource Mgmt. Environmental Economics Economics of Natural Resources Industrial Organization: Empirical Analysis	Interdisciplinary study required through various departments: Economics, Natural Resource Management & Engineering, Statistics and School of Business.	No major awards listed on faculty vitas (small faculty of 10).	Food Marketing Policy Center (collection of all major food industry trade publications).
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) In Agricultural & Resource Economics					
Cornell University Ithaca, New York	1. Master of Professional Studies Degree (M.P.S. [A.L.S.] in International AG/ AG Economics/ Resource Economics (College of AG & Life Sciences)	Special Project Paper	Students tailor their own program from a wide variety of courses in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences & other colleges under the supervision of a Special Committee of faculty & advisors. (1 year of study & two years peace corps field work is an option under this program)	Extensive interdisciplinary opportunities in numerous sectors of AG including: organic farming, livestock production & international development & research.	Faculty Awards: AAEA (Distinguished Graduate Teacher) AAEA (Excellent Thesis Supervisor) AAEA (Distinguished Extension Program) NACTA (Graduate Teaching) WAEA (Outstanding Published Research)	
	2. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Special Project Paper				
	3. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Resource Economics	Special Project Paper				
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) In AG Economics & Resource Economics				NAREA (Outstanding Thesis) 28 awards since 1982 AAEA Outstanding Thesis (11 total awards since 1967: tied 3rd highest)	
University of Delaware Newark, Delaware	1. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomics Macroeconomics International Trade Natural Resources Applied Econometrics Advanced Prices & Stats Spatial Analysis of Natural Resources	Cross-Educational Opportunities available with Animal & Food Sciences, Entomology & Wildlife Ecology & Plant & Soil Sciences.	No major awards listed on faculty website curriculum vitae. (Extensive list of faculty/ student published journal articles listed)	Two campuses with: Greenhouse Labs, Modern Research Farm (250 acres), Woodlot (35 acres for eco. studies).

	2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Operations Research Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomics Macroeconomics International Trade Math Programming with Econ Applications Statistics Survey Operations Research Simulation Modeling & Analysis				
University of Florida Gainesville, Florida	1. Master of Agribusiness (MAB)	Non-thesis program (designed specifically for students with no background in economics)	Economics of Agribusiness Quantitative Methods in Agribusiness Agricultural Financial Management Public Policy & the Agribusiness Firm Strategic Human Resource Management Agribusiness Risk Management International Agribusiness Marketing Advanced Applications (Agribusiness Internship)	All programs require a full range of interdisciplinary study & research through departments: Agricultural Marketing & Policy, Production/Farm Management, International Trade & Development, Marine Economics, Natural Resources, Community/Regional Development, and Labor Economics.	Faculty Awards: SAEA Lifetime Achievement Awards (3 faculty members) SAEA (Distinguished Professional Contribution) AAEA (Outstanding Faculty) AAEA (Quality of Research Discovery) Joun of Ag & Resource Economics (Outstanding Journal Article) NACTA (Outstanding Teacher)		33 faculty & 100 graduate students. Ongoing Study Abroad Opps. Currently offering Commodities to Cafes; AG & Food Marketing in France (3 units) & Global Resource & Environmental Issues in Florence, Italy.
	2. Master of Science with Concentration in Agribusiness (MSAB).	Non-thesis Program (designed specifically for students with an education background in agricultural economics)	Microeconomic Principles & Analysis Agricultural Finance Policy & the Agribusiness Firm Survey Research Methods for Economists Agribusiness Risk Management Elements of Econometrics Advanced Applications (Agribusiness Internship)		USDA (National Award for Teaching Excellence Food & AG Sciences) USDA (Distinguished Service Award)		
	3. Master of Science (M.S.) in Food & Resource Economics	Thesis	Microeconomic Principles Policy & the Agribusiness Firm Science & Research Methods Survey Research Methods for Economists Research & Thesis Proposal Seminars	The Food and Resource Economics Department participates in programs with the Center for Latin American studies, African Studies, Center for Tropical Agriculture, College of Natural Resources & Environment, UF Law School and the Florida Sea Grant Program.			
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Food & Resource Economics						
University of Georgia Athens, Georgia	1. Master of Agricultural Leadership (MAL)	Thesis & Non-thesis	Program Development for Ag Leaders Foundations of AG Leadership Group & Team Development in AG Org. Communication In AG Env. Science Diffusion of Innovations Thesis & Research Credits (if on thesis track)	Department of Agricultural Leadership is a diverse, multidisciplinary partnering aimed at supporting professionals in leadership, teaching, communication in the AG & environmental fields.	AG Education Hall of Fame AIAEE (Outstanding Achievement) AAAE (Outstanding Research)		Mission: to enhance leadership skills for the food, fiber & natural resources systems.
	2. Master of Agribusiness (MAB) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Non-thesis (Internship & Technical Report)	Agricultural Marketing Consumer Demand Agricultural Business Management Production Economics Natural Resources & Env. Economics International Trade & Development				
	3. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Thesis-required	Both M.S. & M.A.E.: Marketing & Trade Management Production Economics Finance Natural Resource Economics Environmental Economics				
	4. Master of Agricultural Econs (M.A.E.) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Non-thesis	Economic Development Public Policy				
	5. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Engineering	Thesis Required	Math Statistics Engineering Research Methods				
	Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Agricultural & Economics		Thesis Units				
University of Idaho Moscow, Idaho	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Biological & Agricultural Engineering	Thesis Required	Both Biological & Engineering Master's: Engineering Statistics Water Resources Bioremediation Bioenergy		Faculty Awards: AAEA (Distinguished Graduate Teacher) USDA (Excellence in Teaching) WAEA (Distinguished Scholar) JAAE (Outstanding Journal Article)		
	2. Master's of Engineering (M.E.) in Biological & Agricultural Engineering	Non-thesis Project (Special Design Project)	Irrigation Systems Watershed Erosion Control				
	3. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Applied Economics	Thesis Required	Microeconomics Resource Economics Environmental Economics Econometrics Agribusiness International Trade	Program offered in collaboration with Washington State Univ.			Student Awards:
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biological & Agricultural Engineering						

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Consumer Economics	Thesis Required	Natural Resource Economics Food Commodity Markets Advanced Price Analysis Microeconometrics Agricultural Finance Mathematics for Applied Economics Thesis Research Units	Interdisciplinary with research topics focusing on: environmental issues, land conservation, consumer economics, business ventures, commodity training & a host of topics relating to the farming industry, production & distribution.	Agriculture Safety (Professional of Year) ASAE (Superior Paper) ASAE (Outstanding Paper) ASABE (Outstanding Paper) AWWA (Academic Achievement) AAEA (Outstanding Paper)	
	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Biological Engineering	Thesis Required (Thesis Waiver Form available with committee approval)	Instrumentation & Measurement Statistical Design & Analysis Mathematics Courses toward Area of Specialization Thesis Research		*ASAE American Society of AG Engineers	
	Ph.D.s Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural & Consumer Economics AND AG & Biological Engineering				Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (6 total awards since 1967: tied 8th highest)	
Iowa State University Ames, Iowa	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (Creative Component- less formal research project)	Quantitative Methods in Econ Analysis Microeconomics Macroeconomics Econometrics Graduate Level Economics Thesis or Creative Component Credits		Faculty Awards: AAEA (Quality of Research Discovery) USAD (Outstanding Ag Public Policy Research) AAEA (Distinguished Extension Program) National Farm Foundation (Outstanding Achievement in Public Policy Education)	Online theses & student resumes available.
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics & Agricultural Economics				Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (9 total awards since 1967: 5th highest)	
Kansas State University Manhattan, Kansas	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Economic Theory (Micro & Macro) Agricultural Economics Theory Quantitative Methods Production Economics Agribusiness Industry Structures Econometrics	Most coursework completed within program, but flexible & designed for working professionals	Faculty Awards: AAAE (Distinguished Fellow) USDA (Outstanding Faculty) WAEA (Distinguished Scholar) WAEA (Distinguished Faculty) AAEA (Outstanding Paper) AJAE (Outstanding Article)	
	2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agribusiness Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomic Theory Food & Agribusiness Management Agribusiness Industry Structures Managerial Finance Basis Elements of Statistical Theory Econometrics		*AJAE American Journal of Ag Economics	
	2. Master of Agribusiness Degree Distance Learning	Thesis Required (on a company related issue)	Applied Econometrics Policy Analysis Behavioral Management Marketing Concepts & Research Agribusiness Management Agribusiness Logistics Agribusiness Economics Optimization Techniques for Agribusiness Agribusiness Risk Management Food & Agribusiness Management Seminar in Agricultural Econ Analysis Thesis (6 Month Period)	Course begins with an on campus session at University Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia where students learn distance learning. 4 One week campus sessions & remainder is distance learning.		
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics					
University of Kentucky Lexington, Kentucky	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics/ Applied Agricultural Economics (Non-thesis)	Thesis & Non-thesis	Calculus Business & Economic Statistics Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory Advanced Microeconomic Theory Agricultural Price Analysis Quantitative Methods In AG Economics 12-18 Credits Grad Level AG Econ Classes Thesis Units (Thesis Track)		Faculty Awards: JAAE (Outstanding Article) AAEA (Outstanding Extension Program) SAEA (Outstanding Extension Program)	
	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering	Thesis & Non-thesis (design oriented)	Mathematics Physical Science Biological Science Engineering Management Computer Design & Research Biosystems Agricultural Engineering	Includes coursework in a variety of engineering disciplines.		
	Ph.D.s Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics AND Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering					
Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, Louisiana	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	18 Credit Hours of Economics & Agricultural Economics, with the specific requirements dependant on area of concentration.		Faculty Awards: AAEA (Quality of Communication) SAEA (Lifetime Achievement) APEX (Excellence in Communication) SAEA (Outstanding Poster)	Dept. of AG Economics & Agribusiness has 23 faculty, 32 grad students &

	2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Biological & Agricultural Engineering	Thesis & Non-thesis	Natural Resource Engineering Agricultural Systems Engineering Food Engineering & Biotechnology Instrumentation for Biological Systems Agricultural Engineering Aquaculture Engineering Biological Reactor Systems for Agricultural Waste Treatment		SAEA (Distinguished Professional) JAAE (Outstanding Article) *JAAE Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics	312 undergrads.
University of Maine Orono, Maine	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Resource Economics & Policy	Thesis & Non-thesis (shorter research paper)	Microeconomic Theory I & II Econometrics Econometric Models & Applications Environmental & Resource Economics Thesis Units (thesis track) Independent Study (non-thesis track)	Interdisciplinary: Program has a firm commitment to economic theory, but the focus is on economic policy analysis as applied to environmental, natural resources & agricultural topic areas. Flexible so students can focus on several interest areas.	WAEA (Outstanding Published Work)	20 Faculty in Economics Dept, mostly economists but Interdisciplinary as well to include an env lawyer, human ecologist, & social psychologist.
University of Maryland College Park, Maryland	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Resource Economics	No Thesis Required (Scholarly Paper)	Microeconomic Theory Applied Econometrics Mathematical Methods Agricultural & Resource Econ Problems	Other disciplines may be taken with advisors approval.	AAEA (Quality of Research) AAEA (Quality of Communication) AAEA (Publication of Enduring Quality)	
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts	3 Master Degree Specializations in the Department of Resource Economics:			Coursework completed within the 3 areas of study in the department of resource economics.	Faculty Awards: National Academy of Educational Leadership (Outstanding Teaching)	Theses available on the university website.
	1. Master of Science (M.S) in Natural Resources & Environmental Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (field essay/ detailed literature review)	Quantitative Methods Econometric Methods Advanced Econometrics Microeconomic Theory			Graduate student resumes
	2. Master of Science (M.S) in Marketing/ Industrial Organization of the Food System	Thesis & Non-thesis	Environmental & Resource Economics Industrial Organization in Research Econ Special Topics in Forecasting Mathematical Methods for Economics			posted on department site under "Job Market
	3. Master of Science (M.S) in Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Independent Study Thesis Units			Candidates"
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics					
Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan	1. Master of Science (M.S) in Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics.	Thesis & Non-thesis (research, case study, or problem-solving project paper)	Economics Statistics Mathematics for Economists Quantitative Methods AG, Food & Resource Economics Research Units	Interdepartmental specialization in Environmental & Resource Development available. Option to complete one year in the Peace Corps. is available.	Faculty Awards: Meat Industry Hall of Fame	Theses available online.
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics (Concentrations in Food & Agribusiness Management, Food & Agricultural Markets, Env. & Resource Economics & Development Economics)			Other interdepartmental specializations include Ethics & Development (Dept. of Philosophy), International Development (Center for Advanced Study of International Development).	Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (10 total awards since 1967: 4th highest)	Job placements posted on website. Faculty of 20.
University of Minnesota Minneapolis & St. Paul, MN	1. Master of Science (M.S) in Applied Economics (in the school of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resources)	Thesis & Non-Thesis (more coursework)	Applied Microeconomics Applied Macroeconomics Methods of Economic Data Analysis Applied Regression Analysis Research Seminar	The graduate program is a unique partnership between 4 university departments: Applied Economics, Human Resources & Industrial Relations, Health & Policy and institute of public affairs (units can be taken from any of these departments).	Faculty Awards: AAEA (Distinguished Fellow) AAEA (Distinguished Graduate Teaching) WAEA (Outstanding Published Work) JAAE (Outstanding Published Research) *IAAE Int assoc of AG Economists Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (8 total awards since 1967: tied 6th highest)	55 faculty members and over 100 grad students in Applied Econ Department. Grad student job Market & Job Placement pages.
Mississippi State Univ. Starkville, Mississippi	1. Master of Agribusiness Management (MABM) in Department of Agricultural Economics	Non-thesis (internship & comprehensive exam)	Financial Statement & Management Accounting Report Analysis Communication in AG Info Sciences Corporate Finance Marketing Management Agribusiness Internship	MABM program is jointly offered by the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and College of Business. Students can choose from tracks in finance, marketing, management, & finance.	Faculty Awards: SAEA (Lifetime Achievement Award)	
	2. Master of Science (M.S) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (research paper)	Quantitative Economics Economics Econometrics Consumers, Producers and Markets Agricultural Production Economics Market Organization & Structure Survey Design & Experimental Econ		Student Awards: SAEA (Outstanding Master's Thesis) BayerCropsScience (Young Sustainable Farmer)	
University of Missouri- Columbia	1. Master of Science (M.S) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (technical paper)	Macroeconomics Microeconomics Econometrics Applied Statistical Methods Thesis Research	Most coursework completed within Agricultural Economics Department.		Student job candidates page available.

	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics					
Montana State University Bozeman, Montana	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Economics (Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics)	Thesis Required	Macroeconomic Theory Microeconomic Theory Calculus Statistics Quantitative Methods Econometrics Research Methodology Thesis Units	Global Experience Classes offered throughout the world (AG in a global context)		
University of Nebraska- Lincoln	1. Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Agribusiness	Non-thesis	Contemporary Managerial Accounting Managerial Finance Managerial Economics Managerial Marketing Applied Organizational Behavior Operations & Information Systems Managerial Decision Making International Business Internship (highly recommended- University helps set up)	MBAA Program is a collaboration between the College of Business Administration and College of Agriculture & Natural Resources- and a variety of courses are encouraged from both disciplines.	USDA (Administrators Award) AAEA (Outstanding Paper Award) USDA (Distinguished Service) AAEA (Young Professional)	Distance learning available for business classes.
	2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (more advanced coursework)	Intro to Mathematical Statistics Intro to Econometrics Microeconomic Theory Orientation to Research Thesis Credits			
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics					
University of Nevada, Reno	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Resources & Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (additional coursework)	Statistical Theory & Application Microeconomics Macroeconomics Quantitative Methods Resource Allocation Mechanisms			
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics (Environmental & Resource Economics)					
University of New Hampshire Durham, New Hampshire	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Natural Resources	Thesis & Non-thesis (directed research project)	Approach to Research Survey Research Current Issues in Ecosystem Ecology Natural Resource Education Quantitative Methods Econometrics Microeconomics Thesis or Directed Study Units	Interdisciplinary approach to natural resource education: Forestry, Environmental Conservation, Environmental Economics, Soil & Water Resource Management and Wildlife & Conservation Biology.		Theses & Grad Research Projects available on website.
	2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Resource Administration & Management	Thesis Required	Ecotourism Social Impact Assessment Topics in Community Planning Investigations Directed Research Thesis Research Natural & Environmental Resource Mgmt. Resource Admin. & Mgmt. Internship	Flexible, interdisciplinary program designed by students on topics incorporating elements of: economics, sociology, forestry, natural resource policy, ecotourism, geography, social sciences & biological sciences.		
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Natural Resources & Earth Systems Sciences					
New Mexico State Univ. Las Cruces, New Mexico	3 Master's offered through Department of Agricultural Economics & Agricultural Business:				USDA (Performance Merit Recognition) USDA (Certificate of Merit) JAER (Outstanding Work) NACTA (Teaching Award) WAEA (Outstanding Teacher)	
	1.. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis Required	Microeconomic Theory Macroeconomic Theory Production Economics Econometrics	In collaboration with dept. of economics		
	2. Master of Agriculture (M.Ag.) with specialization in Agribusiness	Thesis & Non-Thesis (creative component project)	Advanced Agribusiness Management Advanced Agribusiness Marketing Finance Accounting	Draws from classes in the school of business		
	3. Master of Business (MBA) with specialization in Agribusiness	Thesis & Non-Thesis	Economics Accounting Business Administration Advanced Agricultural Policy	Through College of Business Administration & Economics		
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economic Development					
North Carolina A&T State University Greensboro, North Carolina	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics (Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics & Agriscience Education)	Thesis & non-thesis	Agricultural Marketing International Trade Rural Development Policy Agricultural Economics	Peace Corps participation is a part of the program.		Research Farm (600 Acres) International Trade Center (helps small businesses in the state establish International trade)

North Carolina State University Raleigh, North Carolina	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Economics (Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics)	Thesis Required	Microeconomics Macroeconomics Statistics for Social Scientists Intermediate Econometrics Topics in Applied Econometrics		Economists Hall of Fame NCACES (Extension Specialist) NACTA (Outstanding Teaching)		
					Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (8 total awards since 1967: tied 6th highest)		
North Dakota State University Fargo, North Dakota	2 Master's offered through Department of Agribusiness & Applied Economics:			Interdisciplinary study available in conjunction with the Dept. of Civil Engineering (Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute) in multimodal transportation (rural & non-metropolitan planning, highway & railroad engineering, freight transportation operations & agribusiness logistics and distribution).			
	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agribusiness & Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis (comprehensive study option)	Research Philosophy Advanced Econometrics Analytical Methods for Applied Econ				
	2. Master of Science (M.S.) in International Agribusiness	Thesis & Non-thesis	Advanced Microeconomics Comprehensive Study or Thesis Units				
Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio	1. Master's of Science in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Quantitative Methods Development Economics Environmental Economics Microeconomics Macroeconomics	Interdisciplinary electives available.			
Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma	1. Master's of Agriculture in Agribusiness	Thesis & Non-thesis	Agribusiness Agricultural Economics	Professional internship opportunity available.			
					Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (6 total awards since 1967: tied 8th highest)		
Oregon State University Corvallis, Oregon	Agricultural and Resource Department: 1. Master's of Art (M.A.) / Science (M.S.) in Applied Economics. Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Economic Theory Econometrics Quantitative Methods Resource Economics Environmental Economics Microeconomic Theory Macroeconomic Theory Computational Economics Open Fields (tailored to student's interest)	Program focus is on: applied economics, policy & quantitative analysis of natural resources & the environment, sustainable development & markets, but but Open Fields / cross disciplinary study is required in conjunction with other departments: Colleges of Forestry, Agricultural Sciences, Liberal Arts, Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences. School of Public Health & Crop & Soil Sciences.	AAEA (Research Award) WAEA (Distinguished Scholar) WAEA (Outstanding Extension Program) CAS (Excellence in Extension Edu.) JARGE (Best Article 2010) ARF (Distinguished Faculty) Alberta Johnson (Extension Education) CAS (Outstanding Young Faculty) R.M. Wade (Excellence in Teaching)	Seed Lab Research Farm (over 350 acres)	Strong AG distance learning program. Online thesis / projects available. Job placements posted on website.
Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA	1. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural, Environmental & Regional Economics Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Agricultural Environmental & Regional Economics	Thesis Required	Applied Microeconomic Theory Quantitative Methods Colloquium Econometrics Applied Welfare Analysis Economics Thesis Research				
Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Biological Engineering 2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics Ph.D. Available Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Agricultural & Biological Engineering / Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Engineering Statics Engineering Dynamics Thermodynamics Fluid Mechanics Mechanics of Materials (may be completed before entering prog)		ABE Graduate Program ranked #1 (2009-2012) US News & World Report		Extensive, user-friendly website with theses, job placements & department graduate forms.
		Thesis & Non-thesis	Principals of Mathematics Statistics Economic Theory Quantities Methods Policy Analysis				
					Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (11 total awards since 1967: tied 3rd highest)		
University of Rhode Island Kingston, Rhode Island	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Environmental & Natural Resource Economics Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Environmental & Natural Resource Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Natural Resource Economics Costal & Marine Resource Development Resource Management Marketing Ecosystem Services	Interdisciplinary program with emphasis on marine resource development.			

Rutgers, the State Univ. of New Jersey New Brunswick, New Jersey	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Food & Business Economics (Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics)	Thesis & Non-thesis (research paper)	Research Methods In Applied Economics Microeconomic Theory with Applications Econometrics Applied Econometrics	In collaboration with the School of Environmental & Biological Sciences. Courses available through MBA program & Princeton Exchange. Offered through School of Business		Job placement listed on website.
South Carolina State University Orangeburg, South Carolina	1. Master of Business Admin. (MBA) with track in Agribusiness	Non-thesis	Marketing Finance Economics Management Agribusiness			
South Dakota State University Brookings, South Dakota	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Biological Engineering	Thesis & Non-thesis (research/ design paper)	Agricultural & Bio-System Engineering Civil Engineering Computer Science Electrical Engineering Physics			
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural & Biological Engineering					
University of Tennessee Knoxville, Tennessee	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics (Institute of Agriculture)	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomic Theory Research Methodology Econometric Methods Operations Research Methods Resource Economics Thesis Units (if thesis track)	Dual program offered (MS/MBA) in conjunction with the School of Business		
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Natural Resources					
Texas A & M University College Station, Texas	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomic Theory Macroeconomic Theory Econometrics Analysis Forecasting Research Methodology	AG Economics Department/ Faculty rated among top 10 (US & World Report)	Department hosts Food & Agribusiness Industry Symposium	
	2. Master of Agribusiness (Interdisciplinary Degree)	Thesis & Non-thesis	Managerial Economics Regression & Forecasting Methods Simulation Environment of Agribusiness Accounting Finance Management Marketing	Master of Agribusiness is an intercollegiate degree offered by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS) and the Mays Business School through the Intercollegiate Faculty of Agribusiness		
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Ag Economics/ Agribusiness					
Utah State University Logan, Utah	1. Master of Business Admin. (MBA) In Food & Agribusiness	Thesis required	Marketing Agricultural Marketing Price-Analysis Supply Chain Management Econometrics	International MBA Program in Collaboration with Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, UK	Extensive Soil Science Dept & Labs	
University of Vermont Burlington, Vermont	1. Master's of Science (M.S.) In Community Development & Applied Economics	Thesis Required	Advanced Microeconomics Research Methods Applied Regression Analysis Qualitative Research Methods Community Organization & Development Graduate Seminar		Laboratories & Greenhouses Horticulture Research Center Constructed Wetiands Research Center Center for Sustainable AG	
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University Blacksburg, Virginia	2. Master's of Science (M.S) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Non-thesis	Management Science Finance Marketing Economics Econometrics Quantitative Methods Natural Resources Environmental Economics			
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics (In collaboration with School of Economics)					
Washington State University Pullman, Washington	1. Master's of Art (M.A.) in Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Economic Theory Quantitative Methods Research Methods International Trade Policy	Program offered jointly with University of Idaho (field classes). Research or Special Problem: Designed with Committee.	Lab & Field Greenhouses Growth Chambers Mass Spectrometry Seed Tech Labs	
	2. Master's of Science (M.S) in Agriculture	Thesis & Non-thesis	Statistical Methods in Research Research in Agriculture	Program of Study: Designed with committee & based on research interests by end of first semester (only 2 core classes). Collaboration with departments of AG, AG Education, Soil Sciences, Animal Science, Food Science, Horticulture & Plant Pathology.	Turf, Dry land & irrigated field labs	
	Ph.D. Available: Doctor of Philosophy in Economics Doctor of Philosophy in AG Economics					

West Virginia University Morgantown, West Virginia	1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Resource Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Applied Macroeconomics Quantitative Methods Econometric Methods in Resource Econ Project Analysis & Evaluation Mathematical Economics			Electronic theses available on website
	Ph.D. Available					
	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Resource Management & Sustainable Development					
University of Wisconsin- Madison	1. Master's of Art (M.A.) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomic Theory Statistics & Econometrics Economic Analysis Elective Course Work (6 Credits)	Courses offered in collaboration with other departments: Urban & Regional Planning, Forest & Wildlife Ecology, Agroecology & School of Business.		Center for Integrated AG Systems (Extensive Research Center)
	Ph.D. Available					
	2. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Microeconomic Theory Statistics & Econometrics Economic Analysis Elective Course Work (6 Credits) Research & Thesis (6 Credits)			
	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Agricultural & Applied Economics				Student Awards: AAEA Outstanding Thesis (13 total awards since 1967; 2nd highest amount)	
University of Wyoming Laramie, Wyoming	1. Master's of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural & Applied Economics	Thesis & Non-thesis	Theory of Producer Behavior Natural Resource Economics Agricultural Market Theory Theory of Consumer Behavior Econometric Theory Quantitative Methods in AG Economics Research Methods Advanced Seminar	Interdisciplinary Option: For graduate students looking for a foundation in a multidisciplinary framework, dual programs are offered with Environment & Natural Resources & Water Resources departments.	Faculty Awards: AAEA (Quality of Research) AAEA (Excellent Thesis Supervisor) WAEA (Outstanding Published Work)	Small Department 8-15 students per year / 15 faculty)