Swine Markets and Risk

Instructor Contact Information:
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Course Description (1 credit)

A comprehensive overview of industry structure, markets, and risks that characterize the US swine sector. An overview of futures and options markets and other contracts and their use to manage risks in US swine production. Prerequisite Basic Swine Science Course.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of markets and marketing in swine production
- Describe determinants of prices for various commodities in the pork industry
- Define risk and demonstrate knowledge of major sources of risk in swine production
- Differentiate between and select appropriate markets and/or contracts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of risk management alternatives available to the pork industry.
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between marketing and success of the firm

Course Organization:

This course is delivered via distance education. The course is comprised of approximately 14 modules delivered over a 16 week period. Typically, one or two modules are covered per week.

Examination and Grading:

Grades are based on 3 tests (60% of total) administered during and at the end of the course as well several quizzes and assignments administered throughout the course (40% of total).

Learning Modules for the Swine Markets and Risk Course

Module 1. Introduction and Overview
Module 2. An Introduction to the U.S. Pork Industry: Links in the Supply Chain
Module 3. Input Markets in Pig Production: Structure and Trends
Module 4. Pig Farm Product Markets: Structure and Trends
Module 5. Markets and Marketing: Definitions and Comparisons
Module 6. Markets, Supply, Demand, and Producer Profit
Module 7. Price Cycles and Market Margins in the Pork Industry
Module 8. Risk and Uncertainty: Definitions, Sources, and Effects
Module 9. Futures Markets and Basis
Module 10. Hedging with Futures Contracts
Module 11. Options Markets
Module 12. Hedging with Options Contracts
Module 13. Production Contracts, Marketing Contracts, and Revenue Insurance