What are Agricultural Economics Ph.D. Students Learning about Agribusiness Research Methods and Subject Areas?

Lisa House and James Sterns, Univ. of Florida
Ph.D. Interest in Agribusiness

- Number of PhD programs with agribusiness specialization increasing
- Number of Masters programs in agribusiness increasing
- Percent of jobs advertised agribusiness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Written Field Exam in Agribusiness?</th>
<th>Estimated Percent of Total Ph.D. Students taking field</th>
<th>Average Number of Courses Taken in College of Business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cal., Berkeley</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>“not usually done”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10 to 15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10 to 30</td>
<td>Min. of 2, normally 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illino is</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>10 to 30</td>
<td>1 to 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1 to 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10 to 20</td>
<td>3 to 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4 to 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40 to 50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# AAEA 2001 Jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Focus</th>
<th>Approximate # of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Management and Finance</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental/Resource Economics</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Agricultural (commodity) marketing</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production/Farm Management</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data

- Informal Surveys
- Graduate Coordinators
  - By telephone and e-mail
- Graduate students and recent grads
  - By a web survey
  - Contacted via e-mail
Survey

- Are you currently a graduate student
- Where were Ph.D. studies
- Areas of specialization
- # of courses in College of Business (excluding Economics)
- Topics/Subjects learned in:
  - AgEcon Courses
  - Other Courses
  - Research
  - Seminars
Results

- 53 Respondents
- 20 Schools
- 11 schools with 1 response
Methods Learned

![Bar chart showing methods learned by students]

- Cluster Analysis
- Conjoint Analysis
- Factor Analysis
- Multi-dimensional Scaling

% of Students

- AgBus
- Other

THINK CHANGE
Methods Learned

![Bar chart showing methods learned by percentage of students]

- Corporate Finance
- Financial Theory
- Portfolio Theory

% of Students

AgBus
Other

THINK CHANGE
Methods Learned

- E-Commerce
- HRM
- International Business

% of Students

- AgBus
- Other

THINK CHANGE
Methods Learned

- Org Behavior
- Org Theory
- Strategic Mgt
- System Science

% of Students

Collect data on the percentage of students who learned each method.
Methods Learned

![Bar chart showing the percentage of students who learned TQM, Channels and Logistics, and Supply Chain Management. The chart compares the percentage between AgBus and Other categories.]

THINK CHANGE
Figure 8. Percent of 20 Agribusiness Topics Covered, by School
“Conclusions”

- Informal Survey
  - Low numbers for some schools
- Variance among schools
- Management and finance topics covered more than marketing
- Human Resources covered mostly in research
- Case “Research”