

***ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS IN AGRIBUSINESS  
AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS!!!***

**PARTICIPATE IN THE  
2005 AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SECTION CASE STUDY COMPETITION**

The AAEA Graduate Student Case Study Competition allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations. Students competing in the competition will receive a copy of the case study at least two weeks in advance of the AAEA annual meetings. Each team should prepare an oral summary of their solution to the case that will last no more than 15 minutes. Presentations lasting over 15 minutes will be penalized. After the presentation, teams should be prepared to answer questions from the judges on their interpretation of the case.

Teams can be comprised of up to three graduate students. Students may either compete as a team from the same school, or may choose to be mixed with students from other schools. If there is only one student from a school that wants to participate, the student can compete on their own, or he/she can be matched with other students. In the case of teams that are matched with individuals from different universities, competitors will be notified of their teammates as soon as possible, but no later than the same day the case is announced.

**Specific Information for the 2005 Rhode Island Case Study Competition:**

The first rounds of the 2005 case study competition will be held on **Sunday, July 24, 2005** between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If more than 12 teams enter, there will be a round of preliminary heats, a semi-final round, and a final round. If there are 12 or less teams, there will be one preliminary round followed by the final round. The final round will be composed of the top 3 teams and will be held on **Monday, July 25, 2005**. During the final round, at least one judge will be associated with the case (either someone involved in the case business or the author of the case). The three finalist teams will receive plaques. As in the past, finalists will receive complementary tickets to the Industry Banquet where the final rankings will be announced. All team members are encouraged to attend the banquet. If you pre-register for the banquet and then receive the complementary tickets, you will be reimbursed for the banquet ticket price.

**Students participating in the case study competition will need to register in 2 places:**

- 1. Students should register for the AAEA meetings**, mark on the form that they will be participating in the Graduate Case Study Competition, and pay a fee of \$10 (per person) through the official 2005 AAEA Meetings Registration Form which will be available online at <http://www.aaea.org>.
- 2. Competitors must also complete the attached form identifying their teammates and send it to Dr. Michael Sykuta at the University of Missouri no later than June 15, 2005.**

Please direct any questions regarding the 2005 AAEA Case Study Competition to Michael Sykuta at [sykutam@missouri.edu](mailto:sykutam@missouri.edu), phone: 573-882-1738, or Aslihan Spaulding at [adspaul@ilstu.edu](mailto:adspaul@ilstu.edu), phone: 309-438-8091.

## **Judging Information:**

Scores will be based on the following criteria (Source: Seperich, Woolverton, Beierlein, & Hahn. Cases in Agribusiness Management, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Gorsuch Scarisbrick, Publishers, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1996.)

1. *Description of the Case Situation.* A brief overview of the situation found in the case should be provided.
2. *Problem Statement.* A description of the major issue(s) or problem(s) in the case should be given.
3. *Analysis of the Key Alternatives.* The results of the analysis of relevant alternatives should be presented in a concise manner.
4. *Conclusion.* A brief discussion of the logic leading to the selection of a particular alternative as best should be given here, as well as a summary of why the other alternatives were rejected.
5. *Implementation.* A short discussion of how to implement the decision should be outlined.

Teams are strongly encouraged to focus on the analysis, decision, implementation, and potential consequences of their decision versus focusing on describing the situation. Teams should demonstrate their ability to apply academic principles to the decision making process.

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**2005 GRADUATE STUDENT CASE STUDY COMPETITION**

Due: June 15, 2005

COMPETITOR INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Objective: MAB/MBA MS PhD Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Graduate Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to participate with a team comprised of (check one):

members from your school       members from other schools

If you are participating with team members from your school, please list their names below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to register for the AAEA meetings and choose the Case Study Competition (\$10 entry fee per person). Return this entry form by June 15, 2005 to (you will pay through the AAEA, but **each team member** still needs to send in this form to the address below):

Dr. Michael Sykuta  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
University of Missouri  
135 Mumford Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211-6200  
Phone: (573) 882-1738  
Fax: (573) 882-3958  
E-mail: sykutam@missouri.edu