



AGRI12009 Cropping Industry Business Assessment

Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 09/05/2024 01:24 am

All details in this unit profile for AGRI12009 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit prepares you for an industry placement in the area of cropping enterprise management. You will build on your existing theoretical knowledge of cropping production systems from units already completed in the Bachelor of Agriculture course to conduct a business strategy assessment relevant to your host enterprise.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 7

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Co-requisites AGRI12008 Sustainable Crop Production Prerequisite AGRI11002 Crop Management Systems

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2021

- Bundaberg
- Emerald
- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

2. **Practical Assessment**

Weighting: 10%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 60%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from self reflection

Feedback

A mechanism to improve the on-line engagement with students as there is no face-to-face contact under COVID restrictions.

Recommendation

Overall student participation was minimal and therefore minimal opportunity to discuss Assessment 3 dataset. Each assessment question should clearly state that citations from the scientific literature are required. In Weeks 1 and 2, formal instruction in both the search (e.g. Scopus) and management (e.g. EndNote) of scientific literature should be provided.

Feedback from self reflection

Feedback

The industry interview (Assessment 2) was a highlight for a majority of students whilst some students struggled with the concept of investigating a dataset.

Recommendation

The major assessment in this unit (Assessment 3) should be shifted to follow Assessment 1 and due about Week 8. The current Assessment 2 (student-farmer interview) should be shifted to Week 11 and conclude the term with the presentations/evaluations.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Communicate appropriately within the cropping industry.
2. Analyse physical and financial cropping performance.
3. Prepare a business plan.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Practical Assessment - 10%	•		
2 - Written Assessment - 30%		•	
3 - Written Assessment - 60%			•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Communication	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving			•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy		•	•
5 - Team Work			
6 - Information Technology Competence		•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•		•
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation			
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures			

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Practical Assessment - 10%	•		•				•	•		
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	•		•	•		•		•		
3 - Written Assessment - 60%	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Presentation software (Microsoft PowerPoint)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Michael Tausz Unit Coordinator
m.tausz@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 INTRODUCTION - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The first week is an introduction to AGR112009.		

Week 2 ASSESSING THE BUSINESS - 15 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
General overview of agricultural business assessment.		

Week 3 PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - 22 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Aspects of assessing physical and financial performance.		

Week 4 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION - 29 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Effective Communication.		
Assessment 1. Cropping business assessment tool (30%) Due: Week 4 Friday (2 Apr 2021) 12:00 pm AEST		

Week 5 MARKETING AND TRADE - 05 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Marketing strategies and international trade.		

Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 6 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - 19 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Balancing farm business requirements with natural resource management.		

Week 7 PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS - 26 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Balancing farm business requirements with natural resource management.		
A pdf of the presentation is to be submitted for marking (Assessment 2).		
Assessment 2. Cropping producer interview (10%). Due: Week 7 Friday (30 Apr 2021) 12:00 pm AEST		

Week 8 THE ROLE OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE? - 03 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Long-term considerations when an agricultural business is assessed on economic, environmental and social factors.

Week 9 INFORMATION STORAGE AND PROCESSING - 10 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
How does information storage and processing enable the farmer to assess the physical and financial performance of their enterprise?		

Week 10 WHOLE-FARM BUSINESS PLAN - 17 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Understanding the whole-farm business plans and the current and future labour markets.		

Week 11 INFORMATION TO EFFECT CHANGE - 24 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment of business strategies.		

Week 12 REVIEW (ASSESSMENT 3) AND CAREER - 31 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Help with assessment 3 and wrap up		

Exam Week - 07 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 14 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment 3. Cropping business report Due: Exam Week Friday (18 June 2021) 12:00 am AEST		

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment 1. Cropping business assessment tool (30%)

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Develop an outline business assessment tool identifying the key information and outputs that would be required to assess a cropping enterprise. In your assessment tool, you should explicitly identify how you would collate, analyse and present the information as part of a cropping business report. The tool should include details on how to benchmark current physical and financial performance, how you would identify future direction options and how you would develop a future business plan. While developing a cropping/livestock business assessment tool you should be considering how this might be linked to future innovation options for a cropping/livestock business. The assessment item should be a business assessment tool that can be used to gather information for a business report. The tool should have clearly defined sections and identify explicit questions and information that will be gathered from a farmer as part of the second assessment. The assessment tool will also be used for Assessment 3 where you will have access to a data set from a case-study farming enterprise (profit and loss and balance sheet). You are to assume the location of the property is in the central Queensland region.

Assessment Due Date

Week 4 Friday (2 Apr 2021) 12:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

10 working days after the due date.

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

- Demonstrated capability to link information gathering to analyses
- Demonstration that you have researched the practicality and relevance of the information you will seek to gather
- Presentation of the document

Further details and a marking rubric will be available on the Moodle page.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Analyse physical and financial cropping performance.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

2 Assessment 2. Cropping producer interview (10%).

Assessment Type

Practical Assessment

Task Description

Using the business assessment tool developed in Assessment 1, you are required to interview your nominated farmer about the key physical and financial influences on their production system. During the interview, you should identify the market for their product so you can ask questions to establish how that links back to their on-farm practices (note: you require details of the strategic decisions they make, not just the crop targets). You are then required to summarise the key points from your interview in a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation (i.e., about 12 slides) that should be pitched to a non-expert.

The presentation ought to include:

- an introduction of the enterprise
- an outline of the key physical and financial influences of the production system gathered from the producer
- details of strategic priorities
- your assessment of the farmer's willingness/capacity to engage in new practices and/or technologies
- an example(s) of an interview question with answer
- conclusion.

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (30 Apr 2021) 12:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

10 working days after the due date.

Weighting

10%

Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed on: • Demonstration that you can engage with the farmer and are able to communicate and respond to their information.

There will be two aspects to the assessment: 1) You give a practice presentation for peer group discussion and evaluation; and 2) you make any changes deemed necessary and convert the PowerPoint presentation into a pdf file for submission by due date 6/05/2020 for marking. The class presentation will also be evaluated by school staff. Please regard this presentation as a draft and use feedback from your talk to improve your Assessment 2 and/or ask further questions of the farmer. Your contribution to the group evaluation will receive a mark in the 'Audience engagement' section of the Assessment 2 marking rubric.

Further details and a marking rubric will be available on the Moodle page.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

A pdf file of the PowerPoint presentation (updated to reflect the evaluation)

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Communicate appropriately within the cropping industry.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

3 Assessment 3. Cropping business report

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Using the data and information supplied from a case study of a mixed farming (livestock/cropping) enterprise you are required to write a business report on the cropping aspect of the enterprise. This report should present a summary of your assessment of the enterprise and through analyses identify business strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. Consider a proposal for a new business venture or adoption of an innovation. Hence, identify where there are business opportunities for change and link these to the application of an area of emerging innovation. The report should also identify how the business can use ongoing monitoring to track progress against clearly defined goals.

More detailed information on the task is available on the Moodle page of this unit.

Assessment Due Date

Exam Week Friday (18 June 2021) 12:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students

10 working days after the due date.

Weighting

60%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed on:

- Content
- Structure

- Writing style
- Grammar/spelling
- Referencing (plus a minimum of 5 journal citations)

Further details and a marking rubric are available on the Moodle site of this unit.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Prepare a business plan.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem