

A Graduate Module Outline

Title: Issues in Seed Growing for Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Instructor: C D Caldwell

Timing (month/year module will be offered): November 2009 or January 2010

Module Description:

Current issues in the seed industry will be explored from scientific, economic and sustainability perspectives. Attention will be given to the current state of seed science and technology as well as the interpretation of that science and technology as it relates to commerce, consumer perceptions and food safety.

Format:

Session 1:

An introductory lecture will introduce the specific problem(s) in the seed industry to be addressed and the process that will be followed in the module. This will give enough background to set the stage for the students to start investigating the issue at hand. 2-3 key papers per topic will be assigned as required reading for the next session.

Session 2:

Students will come prepared to discuss the assigned papers and to further define the specific problem being discussed. If there are enough students, this can become a small group discussion with the goal of defining how to respond to the problem. Students will then work individually or in a group to produce mini-reviews of the selected topic.

Session 3/4: Students present their balanced analysis of the issue and resolution to the problem in a seminar or debate format.

Method of Evaluation:

20% Participation in discussions of peer reviewed papers and methods

50% Paper- a mini-review of a selected topic in seed issues (10-20 pp double spaced)

30% Presentation – oral presentation or participation in debate

Prerequisites: Graduate student status in crop science.