



Master Seminar in Agricultural Economics

I. Type of seminar

In this seminar, students will apply econometric tools in the context of agricultural economics, in particular farmland markets.

The topic can be chosen either from the list of suggested topics, or students propose their own topics. In the latter case, the suitability of the topic will be discussed with the supervisor.

In this seminar, students will also acquire relevant tools to be prepared for writing a research-based master thesis. This will be supported by an obligatory workshop on academic research, an obligatory workshop on presentation skills, and short presentations of each student's current state of the thesis ("research plan presentation"). On top of that, we expect and encourage active participation and interaction between students.

Since this is not a programming course, it is expected that students have **solid skills in statistical software**. In addition, we expect that students are willing to **familiarize themselves** with new methods and approaches. The respective supervisor will support students in this.



II. Topics and introductory reading material

Topic	Current developments in an agricultural land market of your choice
	<p>Pick a country/region of your choice and present current developments in its agricultural land market. Choose it based on your interest, but make sure that enough data are available for the descriptive and empirical analysis. Write a short scientific study including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a section where you introduce the country, provide some informative statistics about the country and/or its land market, point out the relevance of the topic, and refer to the literature;• a descriptive analysis with a presentation of collected relevant data in at least one own map and at least one own graph;• an empirical analysis where you try to explain the ongoing developments.
Literature	<p>S Rosen (1974). Hedonic Prices and Implicit Markets: Product Differentiation in Pure Competition. <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 82(1): 34–55.</p> <p>H Huang, GY Miller, BJ Sherrick, MI Gomez (2006). Factors Influencing Illinois Farmland Values. <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> 88(2): 458–470.</p> <p>CJ Nickerson, W Zhang (2014). Modeling the Determinants of Farmland Values in the United States. In: JM Duke, J Wu (eds.): <i>The Oxford Handbook of Land Economics</i>.</p>
Data	To be explored by the student.



▪ **III. Dates**

October 20, 2024	Online application via Alma
October 22, 2024	10–12 (c.t.) Kick-off and topic assignment (mandatory)
Tba	<i>The schedule of the regular meetings will be announced after the course start.</i>
December 20, 2024	Term paper is due by noon (12 p.m. s.t.)
	Submit the electronic version (pdf) of the term paper incl. analysis scripts as file upload in ILIAS.
Tba	<i>The schedule of the regular meetings will be announced after the course start.</i>

IV. Course credits

Students can obtain course credit (9 ECTS). To obtain course credit, students must meet the following criteria:

- Students participate in all mandatory meetings.
- Students submit their 12-page thesis on time
- Students present their thesis during the seminar
- Students actively participate during the seminar

Approx. 50% of the final grade will be the thesis, and 50% of the final grade will be the presentation and the participation in the seminar.

Please note:

Topics are subject to change – Students are invited to propose their own topics that fit under the general theme of the seminar.

Tübingen, October 2024