

SCRIBE NOTES
OALP Class 15, Seminar 12
January 11-13, 2012
“Broadening Our International Understanding”

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Rodney Sutterfield

Green Revolution is basically a game that is designed to reenact what would and could happen in the world economy. The game is designed to be played with about thirty people. In the game you have all parts of agriculture involved. First, the government is set up complete with advisors and a president. Second, you have an economist. There are also bankers and government traders. Of course, the government collects taxes from its people and hands out payments when the farm economy and government budgets allow. Also involved are the commodity brokers that try to fill gaps within the market place. And last but not least, the farmers themselves. Each group of would be farmers are given land and equipment on a random draw along with children and a set of rules to play by during the game. At various times during the game, drawings will be made as to crop conditions and weather, pests, and the price of the crop. Each group of farmers is allowed to make improvements, and buy and sell land and capital as they see fit. A person draws cards from a deck to simulate the ups and downs in the weather and crop markets as well as other economic factors. Plus from time to time just as in the real world, you have to balance the books, pay taxes, and determine if you are economically sound. If you are not, you do what is done in the real world: you either let the government have your farm, sell it, or let the bank foreclose your property. At the end of this exercise, you total assets and liabilities and see how you did not only as a individual but as a group. You are able to get an overview of how you could have improved your thinking and risk management within the world economy. From my stand point, this was a lot of fun and very educational. I personally learned a lot.

Following Green Revolution, we did a community service project at the First United Methodist Church. We helped fill bags with food for the backpack for kids program the church does as a community outreach. We were given an overview of this project and others that the church carries out by Glenna Williams.

Class XV was invited to the house of Drs. Bill and Penny Weeks for an evening of fellowship and a very good dinner provided by the Weeks. A special thank you goes out to the Weeks. They had contacted Edmond to ask if they could do this for the OALP class. It was not only a nice gesture but a great evening.

Thank you Kelly for everything you do for the OALP.

Thursday, January 12, 2012, a.m.
Kyle Dorton

The agenda for today included group presentations. Murray, Nichols, and Regier presented on Geography and Climate. The presentation provided information related to the overall geography of Scotland and Ireland, fresh water bodies, annual rainfall amounts, and average temperatures. The group provided some interesting facts related to the two areas such as that there are no snakes in Ireland and that Ireland is often called the Emerald Isle. The presentation was closed with a demonstration by group member Regier on how to pack and dress for the particular climates in Scotland and Ireland.

Next was a group presentation on Agriculture from Holloway, Thornbrough, and Wilcox. The presentation provided some facts regarding agriculture production. These facts included what types of crops are grown and the different types of livestock that are seen in the agricultural industry of Scotland and Ireland. Sheep are the primary livestock followed by cattle. Potatoes are the primary crop followed by wheat, fruits, vegetables, and hay crops. The average farm size in the areas is about 141 acres. Land values are about \$6,665 per acre in Scotland and \$11,442 per acre in Ireland.

Government and Military was the next group presentation by Arnall, Vincent, and Whaley. The presentation provided information in regards to the overall government structures of Scotland and Ireland and the governing bodies of each country. It also provided some information on the military structure of Scotland and Ireland.

The next presentation was from a guest speaker Barbara Charlet on Oklahoma Agriculture and International Trade. This was followed by a presentation from Lacey Newlin who was a student in Study Abroad program. Lacey provided very helpful information regarding her time in Ireland. She talked primarily about some of the customs and her overall experience in Ireland.

Thursday, January 12, 2012, p.m.
Katie Reim

Jeremy Bale, Marketing Director with SST a software developing company for crop production, spoke to the OALP Class XV. SST Software is a privately held agricultural software development and information services provider with customers in forty-two U.S. states, eight Canadian provinces, and twenty-two countries. With more than 15 years of experience, SST is the industry leader in the development of site-specific technology infrastructure and applications, and is currently active in developing, processing, and delivering user-defined information products to many of the largest and most progressive agricultural service providers in North America. By mid-year they will also open an office in Brazil.

SST believes recording keeping is important to running a successful operation and a person can easily locate acreages of hybrids and varieties, and track labor costs and inputs with this software. Hybrid performance is popular, and the software is good for assisting with growing purposes in areas. Multi-year analysis is possible by planting date and rainfall. Customers of five years or more can overlay data and determine yields for specific spots in the field. Client level yearly summaries are available at the farm level, but this technology is not yet to the corporate level.

AgX is a two-fold system of data comprised of a set of attributes and the ever-ending data set that fulfills those categories. SST's website is www.sstsoftware.com.

Lunch was provided by SST technologies. After lunch we had a tour of the SST facilities, which are currently under construction for expansion of their Stillwater facilities.

The next stop was the Oklahoma State University Dairy Center, where Leon Spicer, dairy cattle physiologist, spoke about recent studies. Dr. Spicer has been with OSU since 1988. In about 1920, the first dairy barn was built on the OSU campus and was replaced with a 92-stanchion barn west of campus. The milking parlor was built in 1987 using revenue generated from the sale of semen collected from a bull which originated from the OSU dairy farm.

A current research study taking place at the OSU Dairy Center is on Propionibacteria. One major challenge for cows once they calve is the tremendous nutrient demand to support milk production at a time when dry matter intake is reduced. This can cause stressors during and increase the risk of metabolic diseases and health disorders. A goal of researchers is to manipulate the ruminal microbiologies and nutritionists are trying to manipulate the ruminal microbial ecosystem to improve efficiency of converting feed to animal food products consumable by humans.

David Jones, herd manager, said the herd size of the OSU dairy is 90 cows and it costs \$6.70 per day to feed one cow. Price of milk is currently \$22 per hundred pounds. The average California herd size is 1,000 cows, Arizona's average is 2,200 cows, Texas' average is 700 cows, and Wisconsin's is about 99 cows. Oklahoma is right in the middle nationally, but there has been a decrease due to the hard work involved and low profit margins.

The parlor of the OSU dairy is a Herringbone style. The milk taken from the dairy is sent to the Highland plant in Chandler or to Bluebell in Tulsa.

After the dairy tour, the class met at the home of Edmond and Rose Bonjour. The group had dinner and a baby shower for Brian and Courtney Arnall.

Friday, January 13, 2012
Alisa Hines

No scribe notes submitted.