



**University
of Manitoba** | Faculty of Agricultural
and Food Sciences

Syllabus

DAGR 0630 - Special Project: Agricultural Technologies
for Farm Management Decision Making
(Summer 2022)

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COURSE DETAILS

Course Title & Number:	DAGR 0630 – Special Project – Agricultural Technologies for Farm Management Decision Making
Number of Credit Hours	3
Pre/co-Requisites:	Consent of the Director of the School of Agriculture

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor(s) Name & Preferred Form of Address:	Cole Anderson, Easton Sellers Cole, Easton
Office Hours or Availability:	Available over email Monday – Friday 9 AM til 6 PM and will get back to you within 48 hours.
Office Phone No.	N/A
Email:	Cole.Anderson@umanitoba.ca Easton.sellers@umanitoba.ca
	<i>Note:</i> All email communication must conform to the Communicating with Students university policy.
Contact:	Email is the best way to reach us. Virtual meetings can be set up upon arrangement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

U of M Course Calendar Description

This project allows a student to make practical application of scientific knowledge acquired and/or to intensify the study of a topic of particular interest. A satisfactory report is required to qualify for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of the Director of the School of Agriculture.

General Course Description

Students will be partnered with an agricultural technology firm who will provide hardware, software, training, and technical support throughout the course. Students will use the technological tool to collect data/information from their own farm during the growing season and will assess the strengths and challenges in using the tool to make farm management decisions.

Course Goals

Students will develop critical thinking and management planning skills using agricultural technology that can be used throughout their careers as students and agricultural professionals.

Students will develop an understanding of how technological tools play a role in making important management decisions on farms now and in the future.

Course Learning Objectives

Students will learn how to use a farm management platform that will collect data/information for their own farm during the growing season.

Students will assess the strengths and challenges in using the digital platform and tools in making farm management decisions.

Students will begin the process of assessing the technological needs of their farm operation and implementing a technology management plan.

Students will demonstrate effective communication skills interacting with industry professionals.

Students will prepare and deliver professional presentations where they share their experiences with fellow students, academic staff, and industry partners. Students will integrate learned agronomic, financial, and farm management skills as it relates to agricultural technology in their report.

Students will recognize the importance of having both a physical and digital technology plan for farm operations.

Students will develop additional project specific learning objectives in collaboration with the instructor and the participating industry partner.

Students will continue to develop their self-directed learning skills throughout the course.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

Technological tools (hardware, software, equipment) and resource material will be supplied to the student by the industry partner at no cost to the student. Participating Farm Owner will provide access to field equipment and farm information (legal land descriptions).

A functional computer with a reliable internet connection, microphone, and webcam are required to complete this course. There are no required textbooks for this course, though industry partners may have supplementary trainings and materials available to students.

As this is a remote learning course, you will be using the DAGR-0630-T17 UM Learn page to access course material and Cisco Webex meeting links where applicable. Please refer to the “Support” section within the course to access UM Learn tutorials if necessary. Note the self-registered UM Learn tutorial that prepares you for remote learning called “Learning Online” available to all U of M students.

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

I EXPECT YOU TO:

Comply with all equipment operation and maintenance procedures for the equipment/tools provided by your industry partner.

Safely store and protect the equipment.

Seek prior approval from your industry partner and Instructor to communicate about the technology you are using for this course (e.g., posting on social media).

Demonstrate professional business skills when interacting with project participants.

Be engaged with your industry partner and utilize the training materials and support opportunities at your disposal.

Utilize your technology partner’s support teams where necessary.

Take advantage of the self-directed learning nature of the course to customize your project to be relevant to your focus and career goals.

Communicate with classmates to share perspectives throughout the season by your own means and through class discussions when possible.

Reach out to your instructor regarding assignments and expectations.

Follow all university policies around Class Communication, Academic Integrity, and Recording Class Lectures.

Class Communication:

You are required to obtain and use your University of Manitoba email account for all communication between yourself and the university. All communication must comply with the Electronic Communication with Student Policy:

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html

Additional means of communication between students are not required but are recommended for community development and sharing perspectives throughout the course.

Student Accessibility Services:

The University of Manitoba is committed to providing an accessible academic community. [Students Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) offers academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

Student Accessibility Services
520 University Centre
Phone: (204) 474-7423
Email: Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

Recording Synchronous Sessions/Online Lectures:

No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission by the speaker (this includes correspondence with your tech partner). Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research. Exceptions will be provided for students with extraordinary circumstances from Student Accessibility Services.

EXPECTATIONS:

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO:

- Facilitate communication between you and your industry partner where appropriate.
- Facilitate communication between classmates where appropriate.
- Help students develop projects that are unique and applicable to their careers.
- Be flexible with specific assignment expectations as they relate to individual's unique projects.
- Assignments will be graded and returned within two weeks after the posted due date.

I want to see you all succeed in this Summer course. I encourage you to take advantage of the small class size and maintain a course community over the season with myself and your classmates to make the course more enjoyable and effective by broadening perspectives as you develop your projects.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or based on the learning needs of the students but such changes are subject to [Section 2.8 of ROASS](#).

*Periodic synchronous class discussions are to be determined based upon seasonal work commitments.

*Virtual meetings between students and their respective industry partners will be scheduled based on seasonality and specific requirements for their projects.

Course Schedule

Course Start Date: May 1st, 2022 (U of M Summer Session requirement)

Class End Date: August 31st, 2022 - Final Project & Grade submission will be delayed and entered as IP (in progress until later in October to reflect post-harvest)

Late April/Early May: Course Orientation with instructors, industry partners, and farm owners

May – September: Onboarding with industry partners, installation of hardware, access to software, continued training and support throughout the growing season

August 31st: 1st Written Report Draft Due (Outline & Planning)

September 30th: 2nd Written Report Draft Due

October 31st: Final Project Due (Written Report and Video Presentation)

November & December: Final Projects graded in early November. Potential outreach and sharing of presentations to DAGR 0480 & 0980 classes, industry partners, and the Faculty of Ag & Food Sciences

Voluntary Withdrawal

May 22nd, 2022 is the last day to drop the class and receive 100% refund.

July 31st, 2022 is the last day to withdraw with no refund. Students who do not drop the course by the deadline will be assigned a final grade. Voluntary withdrawal courses will be recorded on the students University of Manitoba. official transcript. Refer to the [Registrar's Office](#) web page for more information.

Students are encouraged to discuss their progress and strategies for improvement if needed prior the withdrawal date.

COURSE ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

This course is designed around the completion of a professional report and presentation that assesses the actual use and potential integration opportunities of an agricultural technology on their farm operation.

There are checkpoints to complete throughout the season that will ensure students are on the right track collecting information and doing analysis along the way. Completing these preliminary assignments will benefit the quality of your Final Report and Presentation, as well as provide an opportunity to earn significant grade value in the course.

In-depth descriptions and rubrics of each step of the Final Project assignment will be provided when introduced on UM Learn.

Biweekly Log of Activities and Reflection

GOAL: To allow students to log details relevant to various operations of the season that you will include in your final report and presentation and to consider topics for further elaboration. There is too much activity throughout the season to remember every detail, so it's important to take useful, specific notes.

PROCEDURE: Reflect on provided and relevant topics and take notes detailing the steps taken during various seasonal preparations and operations, such as:

- a) Pre-seeding (April/May): Onboarding process with tech partners (setting up accounts, installing hardware, mapping fields, other preliminary steps to organize prior to collecting data)
- b) Seeding (May/June): Overview of crops seeded, timing, conditions, how you implemented technology may have changed this process
- c) Scouting/Spraying (June/July): Scouting process and organization, weather conditions, key risks, chemical applications, cultural operations
- d) Harvest (August/September): Overview of harvest plan and activity, harvest data, uses now or in the future, ease of collection or analysis

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submit your updated Word file (will provide template) via UM Learn bi-weekly by midnight on provided due dates.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Pass/Fail based on completion.

1st Written Report Draft

GOAL: To organize the topics being addressed throughout the Final Written Report Project for students to assess all relevant areas and implications of their assigned agricultural technology.

PROCEDURE: Create a report outline including required topics and relevant subtopics specific to your project. This process should help guide the focus of your notetaking by creating a road map and ensure you are collecting the required information to compile a comprehensive report.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submit your 1st Written Report Draft '.word' file via UM Learn by midnight on August 31st.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Pass/Fail based on completion. Expectations for progress will be included on the Final Written Report Project assignment document via UM Learn.

2nd Written Report Draft

GOAL: To begin compiling information and completing necessary background research relevant to your respective industry partner's company and technology. Having organized topics to address in the written report will also help set the foundation for your video presentation project.

PROCEDURE: Analyze collected farm data to date and begin writing sections of your report wherever possible. This could include topics relevant to operations completed earlier in the season or any necessary information about your agricultural technology that you will be presenting and referring to throughout the report.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submit your 2nd Written Report Draft '.word' file via UM Learn by midnight on September 30th.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Pass/Fail based on completion. Expectations for progress will be included on the Final Written Report Project assignment document via UM Learn.

Final Written Report Project

GOAL: To compile a thorough business report assessing the actual and potential uses of your partnered agricultural technology to present to your Farm Manager for possible adoption. This report will cover subjects discussed in previous Diploma in Agriculture courses as it relates to the student's real, or case, farm for the purpose of developing farm management and decision-making skills.

PROCEDURE: Follow a similar process as required in the PLNT 0760 Final Research Report Project, though with a focus on compiling your own collected farm data rather than researched information. Example topics to consider are listed below, though a detailed assignment document will be posted via UM Learn with required sections and recommended subsections.

- Company history
- Description of products/services available/traditional uses
- Product/service quality
 - What kind of data are you collecting?
- Decision Making application for the farm/case-farm
 - What areas of your farm operation benefited most from implementing this technology?
 - Further implementation?
- Cost analysis
 - Capital cost? Subscriptions? Modifications to equipment?
 - Can you measure the financial benefit (Return on Investment)?
- Risk analysis
- Other considerations
- Recommendations to Farm Manager

*Images and content from outside sources are to be cited with APA formatting.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submit your Final Written Report Project '.docx' (Microsoft Word) file via UM Learn by midnight on October 31st (extended to reflect post-harvest).

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Detailed rubric to be provided via UM Learn.

Video Presentation Project

GOAL: This assignment is an opportunity for students to use their professional oral and visual communication skills to present their findings and recommendations to their Farm Managers. These video presentations will be an accessible way to share the student’s findings with other students, instructors, and industry partners in the future.

PROCEDURE: Students will create a 5 to 7-minute video presentation to their Farm Manager (actual or case) focusing on the most important findings from their Final Written Report Project for the purpose of potential integration onto the respective farm operation. This will require concise organization and presentation of material, both in the visual and verbal presentation.

*Images and content from outside sources are to be cited with APA formatting.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submit your Video Presentation Project ‘.mp4 and .pptx’ file via UM Learn by midnight on October 31st (extended to reflect post-harvest).

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Detailed rubric to be provided via UM Learn.

Grading

1. Bi-Weekly Log of Activities and Reflection – 30%
2. 1st Written Report Draft – 10%
3. 2nd Written Report Draft – 10%
4. Final Written Report Project – 30%
5. Video Presentation Project – 20%

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	95-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	86-94	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	80-85	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	72-79	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-71	2.25-2.74	2.5
C	60-64	2.0-2.24	2.0
D	50-59	Less than 2.0	1.0
F	Less than 50		0

Referencing Style

Images and content from outside sources are to be cited with APA formatting. The Final Written Report Project and Video Presentation Project will have referencing requirements in the rubric.

Please refer to the Reference and Citation content and requirements from PLNT-0760 for guidelines on APA formatting for these purposes.

The library is also a good resource if you have doubts about how to cite materials. Please refer to: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/citingandwriting> for more information. Librarians are also available to any questions you may have regarding referencing and citations.

Assignment Feedback

Assignments will be graded with feedback within two weeks of the respective submission deadline. I will include comments on all assignments to encourage thorough analysis and presentation of material, as well as suggesting topics that would be of benefit to explore for a student's particular project.

Please reach out if you would like to set up a virtual meeting to discuss an assignment grade or feedback.

Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy

Assignments that are late will be given a grade of zero. Assignments submitted that are not formatted correctly and cannot be opened/accessed by Instructor **will be given a grade of zero**. Assignment deadlines will be stated in this syllabus, on the assignment instructions, and on UM Learn.

Non-medical Extensions may be granted if students communicate in advance with their Instructor and provide supporting documentation to warrant an extension. When no extension is granted, late assignments will be assigned a grade of zero.

Due to the seasonal nature of this course, the Final Report and Presentation due date may have to be delayed depending on how far along we are with harvest. This will be discussed and announced ahead of time, but should not be relied upon without confirmation by the instructor.

Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Manitoba [Academic Integrity principles](#). Always remember to reference the work of others that you have used. Also be advised that you are required to complete your assignments independently unless otherwise specified. If you are encouraged to work in a team, ensure that your project complies with the academic integrity regulations. Inappropriate collaborative behavior and violation of other Academic Integrity principles, will lead to the serious [disciplinary action](#). Visit the [Academic Calendar](#), [Student Advocacy](#), and [Academic Integrity](#) web pages for more information and support.

When is collaboration inappropriate?

When students work together or share information without specific instructions by the professor, this constitutes inappropriate collaboration. This applies to in-class or take-home tests, papers, labs, or homework assignments; basically, any assignment that will be submitted for a grade. Students should not collaborate unless the professor has given specific instructions about group work and when this is permissible.

LEARNER SUPPORT

Writing and Learning Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers writing and learning supports to help you throughout your academic program. These supports are offered online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Make an appointment with an ALC writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. The ALC also has an English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialist available to work with students on improving their English-language academic writing skills.

Consult an ALC learning specialist or attend an academic skills workshop to improve your time management, learning strategies and test-taking strategies. Get support in select courses by making an appointment with an ALC content tutor. The ALC also offers peer-facilitated study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In SI study groups, students ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

In addition to one-to-one and group sessions, you can also find writing and study tip sheets and videos on the ALC website.

Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

Contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or emailing academic_learning@umanitoba.ca. Bannatyne students can contact the Bannatyne Student Services office at 204-272-3190.

University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)

Research begins at [UM Libraries](#). [Learn at the Libraries](#) is a great place to start, with information for students on academic writing, how to search the library, evaluating resources, and writing citations. As the primary contact for all research needs, your [liaison librarian](#) can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about locating appropriate resources or managing citations, and will address any other concerns you may have regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you online. When working remotely, students can also receive help online through [Ask Us!](#) chat. For further detail about the libraries' services and collections, [visit the Libraries' web site](#). Regularly check our [COVID-19 Update](#) page for available library services and access to resources for Fall 2020

For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.

Student Counselling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. *Student Counselling Centre:* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

474 UMSU University Centre or S211 Medical Services Building

(204) 474-8592

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

520 UMSU University Centre

(204) 474-7423 (Student Support Intake Assistant)

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. Note that due to fire displacement, UHS is unable to provide in-person medical care on the Fort Garry Campus until October, 2020.

University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

Health and Wellness

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are seeking information on health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, or sexual violence. You can also access peer support from a *Healthy U* peer health educator.

Health and Wellness Educator

<https://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome-about.html>

britt.harvey@umanitoba.ca

469 UMSU University Centre

(204) 295-9032

Sexual Violence Resource Centre

Contact SVRC if you have experienced sexual violence or are seeking information about how to help somebody else. SVRC provides inclusive, survivor-centred, trauma-informed services, such as consultation, referrals, safety planning, and a range of on-site supports, including counselling by Klinik.

Sexual Violence Resource Centre

<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/sexual-violence-support-and-education>

svrc@umanitoba.ca

537 UMSU University Centre

(204) 474-6562 (Sexual Violence Intake and Triage Specialist)

Student Services at Bannatyne Campus

Contact SS@BC to access a full range of resources and supports for learners at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Services are provided through a one-stop hub that includes a range of supports for personal and academic success, including counselling, mental health consultation, and spiritual care.

Student Services at Bannatyne Campus

<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-services-bannatyne-campus>

bcss@umanitoba.ca

S211 Medical Services Building

(204) 272-3190 (Intake and Triage Specialist)

A notice with respect to copyright:

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's *Copyright Act*. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

A statement directing the student to University and Unit policies, procedures, and supplemental information available on-line:

Your rights and responsibilities

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html) <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections *University Policies and Procedures* and *General Academic Regulations*.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final **grade appeals**. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the **Academic Integrity** regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the **Student Academic Misconduct** procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include the:

Respectful Work and Learning Environment

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

Student Discipline

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html and,

Violent or Threatening Behaviour

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html

- If you experience **Sexual Assault** or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The **Sexual Assault**

policy may be found at:

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>

For information about rights and responsibilities regarding **Intellectual Property** view the policy:

https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/235.html

For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school web site

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>

Contact an **Academic Advisor** within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca

Using Copyrighted Material

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and university guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the *Copyright Act* applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.