FREC 150
Assignment 3

THE UNITED STATES’ FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM

This assignment must be word-processed (double-spaced and 12 point font). Information for questions 2, 3, and 4 can be found on World Wide Web sites “linked to” the course Reading List. All quoted or paraphrased material, including material from Web pages, must be referenced correctly.

1. Pick a company in the Food and Fiber System. Discuss why you consider this company as part of the Food and Fiber System? Using the World Wide Web or other sources, write a one page “overview” of the company. Include (as many as possible):
   - Major products (customers) and major inputs (suppliers)
   - Number of employees
   - Annual Sales; domestic and international
   - Location of operations (headquarters and facilities)
   - Possible employment opportunities for College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ graduates, i.e., who works there.

2. Pick one “agency, service, or program” of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Write a one page “overview” of the agency, service or program. Include:
   - Services or products offered
   - Major clients or customers
   - Importance to the Food and Fiber System
   - Possible employment opportunities for College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ graduates, i.e., who works there.

3. Much of the federal legislation affecting the Food and Fiber System was written and passed in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s – yet, they still exist. Write a brief discussion of the relevance of the Morrill Acts, Hatch Act or Smith-Lever Act to the current Food and Fiber System. Are they still relevant today – justify your answer, yes or no.

4. Briefly identify and discuss three (3) things (socioeconomic, economic, etc.) that you thing will significantly affect the Food and Fiber System in the next 5 years.

5. Using the Agriculture Section of the “Statistical Abstract of the United States” (or data given in class), answer the following questions regarding Production Agriculture (Farming) in the United States. Use the most recent data available.
   1. The average age of the American farmer is?
   2. How many farms are there in the United States? In Delaware?
3. In the US, what percent of farms are less than 50 acres? What percent are greater than 1,000 acres?

4. What is the average size, in acres, of a farm in the United States? In Delaware? In Wyoming?

5. What was the total “cash receipts” for all farms in Delaware?

6. What livestock product accounted for the most sales in Delaware?

7. What crop product accounted for the most sales in Delaware?

8. America’s largest agricultural imports (as measured by sales) are?

9. What percent of America’s total agricultural output are exported?

10. America’s top three (3) destinations for agricultural products exports are?