**EDC 730/AEC 780**

**Summer I 2012**

**Assignment: What does it mean to live and teach in a rural state?**

For homework tonight, we would like you to think about the two questions:

What does it mean to live in a rural state?

What does it mean to teach in a rural state?

As a starting place, we would like you to do a little research by:

1. *Reading the following*:
   * State fact sheets from the United States Department of Agriculture: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/> Please compare Kentucky with Ohio and New York.
   * Also check out: United States Department of Agriculture’s definitions of rural states: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruraldefinitions/KY.pdf>
2. *Take notes on the following question*: What does it mean to live in a rural state? How does the topography, economy, culture impact our way of life in Kentucky? Type your notes and bring to class tomorrow to share in a discussion at the beginning of class—be sure to use your analysis of the documents to support your answers. I will collect these notes. (You can keep to 1 page and they can be in bulleted or narrative form).
3. *Think and be ready to discuss*: *Post to the BlackBoard Discussion Forum on this topic.*

What does it mean to teach in a rural state? Using your own experiences and the data within this exercise, should we change our teaching to adapt to our surroundings? If so, how should this be done? What does it mean to have a “community-relevant curriculum”? Should teaching look different if you teach in New York versus Kentucky versus Hawaii versus California, for instance?