

Research Methods  
AGSC 5110  
Homework #3 (20 points)  
Due: April 6, 2020

Keeping up with the News and Views of Agriculture

Purpose:

1. In addition to using literature review to identify issues in agricultural research, it is also important to keep updated on the viewpoints and needs of different agricultural topics.
2. It is important to be able to communicate your findings and your knowledge with others.
3. It is important to understand technology and use it efficiently.

Assignment:

1. Create a Twitter account at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)
2. Follow my Twitter handle @TSUBioenergy
3. Participate in at least two #agbookclub discussions and turn in answers to the following questions:
  - What did you learn about during the discussion? (6 points)
  - What did you contribute to the discussion (this can be a question, opinion, information that you tweeted during the discussion. Whenever you tweet make sure to include @TSUBioenergy)? (6 points)
  - Do you find this type of discussion interesting or helpful? Why or why not? (8 points)
4. Feel free to tweet back to others about class, homework, or what they have already tweeted. (0 points, because its fun!)

Note: When tweeting, please be respectful of other people and their opinions.

#agbookclub discussions occur weekly on Wednesdays at 8pm CST (you do not have to read the book to participate as many of their questions do not directly relate to the book)

## **How do these chats work?**

The chats are a part of Twitter, a free social networking and microblogging service that enables users to send and read short messages known as “tweets.” Tweets are 280-character posts sent by each Twitter user to the author’s subscribers, or followers.

Each discussion time, members of the #AgBookClub community are invited to convene online at the appointed time for a “streaming” Twitter feed. The chats include questions from the moderator and can be fast-paced, insightful and, often, colorful.

Here are a few tips:

- Introduce yourself, your connection to ag, affiliation, etc, even if you come in late.
- Always use the #agbookclub tag.
- Stay on topic or ‘respect the chat’ as some like to say.
- Watch for questions to be posed from @agbookclub (moderator will typically announce question is closing & next question is on the way).
- Use the question number (ie: Q1, Q2...) in advance of your response so that the people trying to following the conversation later can identify what you’re responding to.
- Aside from those tips, your best bet is to follow the rules of conversation. Engage, listen and talk (tweet, in this case). If you really like what someone else says, retweet (RT) their info so your community can see it. If you need clarification, ask for it, as long as a ‘side conversation’ isn’t distracting to others using the tag.

## **I don’t know what to say (tweet).**

State your opinion, share a resource or simply say you don’t know, but would like to learn. Just as you wouldn’t toss your coffee and scream at another person in a coffee shop (we hope), we’re not asking you to agree with everyone in the chat. As long as you respond to the questions in a professional manner and stay on topic with your tweets, you’ll be in good shape.

Please don’t be frustrated if you’re not immediately acknowledged; the pace of the conversation is so fast that it’s easy to have introductions overlooked. Just keep chatting & others will engage with you. We’re a friendly group, but are sometimes on such a mission to keep up that we miss tweets! We do ask that you hold off on promoting your work, suggesting your own site or asking for specific feedback until pitch time, which happens at the end of the conversations.

## **What’s the most important thing to do as a participant?**

Be yourself, participate transparently and respect others. It’s a professional conversation. Just as you wouldn’t come into a meeting or a party shouting (or at least we hope you wouldn’t), these chats work best by those engaging in dialogue. That doesn’t mean we expect everyone to agree, but simply engage in productive conversation.