

# Law of the farm “plus”

This general education class is as much about critical thinking and “learning how to learn” as it is about statistics. It is therefore appropriate to address some of the key learning concepts stressed directly or indirectly during the semester. (Yes, these should be studied and may appear on the exam!)

## Law of the Farm

The full text for The Law of the Farm is available on this [link](#). However, its critical concepts are embedded in this first paragraph (Covey, 1994):

*One of the best ways to understand how **extrinsic realities** govern is to consider the Law of the Farm. In agriculture, we can easily see and agree that **natural laws** and principles govern the work and determine the harvest. But in **social and corporate cultures**, we somehow think we can dismiss **natural processes**, cheat the system, and still win the day.*

I have added emphasis to the key concepts in the above paragraph. If you have any questions about these highlighted principles, please bring them up for discussion in class. As in farming, success in life comes from regular disciplined, daily effort.

## Mistakes are an opportunity to learn

“It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so” (attributed to Mark Twain). You are self-governing independent educated people. Take responsibility for your learning.

## Hurry to lose, slow down to win. (Old baseball saying.)

“Contrary to popular belief, the brain is not designed for thinking,” so says prominent research psychologist Daniel Willingham. The function of education is to re-train the brain from its natural limbic state to a more thoughtful process. You have to slow down your thought process to learn and work efficiently.

## Gerstman's interpretation of *Murphy's Law*

- Nothing is as simple as it seems.
- Everything takes longer than you think.
- If anything can go wrong it probably will, so make your plans as simple as possible and have a backup plan for when things do go wrong.

## And finally...

“The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.” (Bertrand Russell)