**Potentially Useful Books for Personal and Business Finance**

I haven’t read all of these books yet (working on it), but many have been recommended to me by trusted colleagues.

**Personal Finance Books:**

**The Wealthy Barber by David Chilton**

I really like this book. This tells the basics of personal finance through the story of monthly visits to a semi-retired barber. Great book, especially for those who are intimidated by finance. The last edition was written in 1997, so a lot of the tax information is out of date – but the concepts hold true.

**The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley**

Written in 1998 – so some information is outdated, but the concepts are timeless.

**The Automatic Millionaire by David Bach**

This is a kind of “laundry list” of things to do to save money and use it more wisely.

**The Psychology of Money by Morgan Housel**

Recommended to me by Dr. Art Keown, a well-respected Finance professor at Virginia Tech. I’m just starting to read it now.

**The Ultimate Financial Plan by Jim Stovall & Tim Maurer**

Written by the same author as “The Ultimate Gift” (transition planning). Recommended to me by a financial planner. I just got a copy to read.

**Business Books:**

**The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**

This is the story of a shepherd boy following his dream. VERY inspirational – will get your entrepreneurial juices flowing!! An audio version is available on YouTube (about 2 hours, I think). I use this book in my Entrepreneurship course at VT – the students love it!

**Profit First: Transform Your Business from a Cash-Eating Monster to a Money-Making Machine by Mike Michalowicz**

Recommended by a former student who is a financial planner that works with lots of small business owners. Just got a copy.

**The E Myth Revisited: Why Most Small Businesses Don’t Work and What to Do About It by Michael E. Gerber**

Recommended by a financial planner who works with business owners. Just got a copy.

**Fearless Farm Finances 2nd Ed. By Jody Padgham, Craig Chase, and Paul Dietmann**

Good “manual” for farm records, financial statements, and financial decision making. It’s geared towards small-scale farming. There are a few “minor economic mistakes” in the book, but nothing that will be critical to decision making. I’m thinking of using this as a text for my senior-level Ag Finance course.

**The Farmer’s Office: Tools, Tips and Templates to Successfully Manage a Growing Farm Business by Julia Shanks**

This book has a lot of great information on business planning, sales forecasting, financial decisions, and a basic overview of using QuickBooks for farms. I haven’t read the entire book yet, but I’ve liked what I’ve read.