

## AAEA Trust Profile: Hope Michelson

AAEA Trust Profile is a new bi-monthly series following up with [AAEA Trust](#) sponsored scholarship, fellowship and grant winners. This month's issue features Hope Michelson, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Hope received the [Chester O. McCorkle, Jr. Scholarship](#) in 2007 while attending Cornell University. The McCorkle Scholarship supports applied research by a graduate student on economic issues relating to agriculture. Hope's research proposal, which won her the scholarship, collected and analyzed a unique household-level data set essential to study the welfare effects over time of a local and international marketing revolution on Nicaraguan small farmer operations.



*How did winning the scholarship help accomplish your research goals?*

The Chester O. McCorkle Scholarship, along with a Social Science Research

Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship and a USAID Basis AMA CRSP, funded my dissertation research in Nicaragua. The study, part of a broader research project undertaken in collaboration with researchers at Michigan State University and the Universidad Centroamericana, analyzed the dynamics of small farmers' participation in Nicaraguan supermarket supply chains. I also estimated the effects of participation on small farmers' wealth – measured by changes in their productive asset portfolios relative to comparison non-participant farmers.

For the study, we identified and surveyed all Nicaraguan farmers who had sold horticulture to Walmart or the domestic supermarket, La Colonia, between 2000 and 2008. As a comparison group, we resurveyed an existing nationally-representative panel of farmers confined to areas where I had determined supermarkets had been sourcing. I also spent a lot of time gathering price data from markets and cooperatives so that we could analyze the supermarket and traditional market price distributions.

I spent one year living in Nicaragua; many months that year I spent on the road in pickup trucks with teams of enumerators tracking down and surveying farmers. The support from AAEA was critical to completing this large-scale and logistically intensive research project.

My dissertation won the [Honorable Mention for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation](#) of the Year from the AAEA in 2011 and the research has been published in *World Development* and the [American Journal of Agricultural Economics](#).

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***What are you researching/working on now?***

My research has two primary threads, both concerned with the relationships between agriculture, poverty, and market institutions in the developing world. One theme of my work continues to focus on the evolving relationships between new large-scale market systems for agricultural products and small farmers in emerging economies. I have extended my dissertation work and now have a large project studying the structure of Walmart's supply chains in China and the implications for small farmer participation. The work is in collaboration with University of California, Davis and The Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy in Beijing. A second thread of my research uses prices, household data, government production data, and satellite imagery to study small farmer fertilizer use and food security. With soil scientists at Columbia's Agriculture and Food Security Center (where I just completed a post-doctoral fellowship), I am studying which economically viable policies can bring about a sustainable increase in sub-Saharan Africa's soil fertility. We are also studying the small farmer investment and yield effects of a new innovation that uses rapid in-the-field soil testing to improve soil information and management recommendations to farmers in Tanzania.

***What made you decide to pursue agricultural economics?***

I studied History and English Literature in college. Even so, through my volunteer work in Washington, DC on problems of social justice and education equity and through my History and Policy courses, I had begun to understand the special power of economic vocabulary and methodology. However, though I had always been a strong math student and

had taken a wide range of classes in undergraduate, I didn't enroll in my first economics course until my senior year of college when I decided to apply for a MS in agricultural economics. Agricultural economics appealed to me as a direct and urgent place to work, given my interests in poverty and development.

***What do you hope to research/work on in the future?***

On January 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, I started a new position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At the University of Illinois, I will continue to build a body of research based in quantitative analysis, fieldwork and interdisciplinary partnerships to gain insights into strategies for reducing poverty and hunger in the developing world. I see agricultural economics as a way of understanding political and ethical problems of immediate relevance: chronic poverty, the challenges of development, and the impact of a rapidly globalizing economy on local privations and freedoms.

*For more information or to donate to the AAEA Trust please visit the Trust website:*

<http://www.aaea.org/trust>.



## AAEA News

**Registration Now Open****2014 AAEA/EAAE/CAES Joint Symposium*****Social Networks, Social Media and the Economics of Food***

Hyatt Regency Montreal – Montreal, Quebec,  
Canada – May 29–30, 2014

**Important Deadlines:**

- March 31, 2014: Early Registration Deadline
- April 3, 2014: Deadline for Final Papers and Posters to be uploaded on AgEcon Search
- May 15, 2014: Registration and Cancellation Deadline

**Registration**

Registration for the Joint Symposium is now open.

[Click here](#) to register online or complete a [PDF form](#) and return to the AAEA business office by fax: 414-276-3349. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact [info@aaea.org](mailto:info@aaea.org).

**Registration Fee:**

- Before March 31: \$240 (USD)
- April 1 – May 15: \$285 (USD)

**Hotel Reservations**

All of the Joint Symposium activities will take place at the Hyatt Regency Montreal. Hotel reservations can be made [online](#) or by calling 1-800-361-8234. When making reservations over the phone, please mention the AAEA Symposium. The

deadline to reserve a hotel room is **Monday, April 28**. After that date the rates below cannot be guaranteed.

**Hyatt Regency Montreal**

- Single/Double: \$199 (CAD)
- Regency Club: \$259 (CAD)

The purpose of this symposium is to provide a forum for presenting studies on the economics of food production and choice in a world in which social media and social networks have assumed a prominent role. The objective is to promote a better understanding of peer group influence on food consumption, and how social media and social networking affect food production and food choice decisions. Recognizing the role of social media in the broader food environment can help explain food choices that lead to unhealthy diets or the consumption of unsafe food. Understanding social media and social learning will help inform policies that use social concepts to control these, and other, food-related problems.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.aaea.org/meetings/2014-aaeaaecaes-joint-symposium>

Questions? Contact the organizing committee at [social.food.econ@gmail.com](mailto:social.food.econ@gmail.com) or the AAEA Business Office at [info@aaea.org](mailto:info@aaea.org).



## AAEA News

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### Editorship of the *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy* Call for Applications

The AAEA Executive Board invites applications for one editor for *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (AEPP)* to serve from 2015 through 2017.

This call for applications is for an editor to manage Submitted Articles which contain original research results addressing real-world problems with sound research approaches and/or have strong policy relevance within the subject matter of the journal. The degree, to which candidate's expertise complements that of the continuing editors, will be considered in the selection process. The AAEA is particularly interested in candidates who will bring ideas and innovations for helping *AEPP* to further its mission.

Submitted articles will meet the normal standards for scholarly publication, but should also be accessible to the broader audience of agricultural and applied economists working outside academia. Submitted articles should emphasize one or more of the following: a) practical implications for public policy; b) clarification of research implications so as to maximize accessibility and cross-fertilization across specific areas of research; c) empirical comparison of competing theories, explanations, and approaches that can refine future research; and d) development of fruitful directions for future research. Additional information about the *AEPP*, its policies and mission is available at [www.aaea.org/publications/aepp](http://www.aaea.org/publications/aepp).

The editor will work with an editorial team comprised of another Submitted Articles Editor, and a Managing Editor to manage the manuscript review process. The Submitted Articles Editors are responsible for day-to-day issues relating to

submitted articles, assisting with development of the Special Issues, and revising editorial policy. The *AEPP* editorial process employs electronic submission of manuscripts and interchange between editors and reviewers. An electronic system that tracks manuscripts through submission, review, and editorial decision is used by the editors for managing work flow. Authors can also query this system for e-mail reports on the status in the editorial process of a submitted manuscript. The editors also oversee the work of Oxford University Press in preparing copy for printing and reviewing proofs.

The new editor should be prepared to begin on January 1, 2015. There may be some training and coordination work starting around November 1. Applications should include a statement of editorial philosophy and ideas for furthering the journal's goals, an indication of the candidate's principal areas of expertise to support the *AEPP*'s mission, a curriculum vitae, and a statement of administrative and financial support to be provided by the host institution. AAEA will provide financial assistance to defray some portion of the editor's time and most expenses. Applications should be sent electronically via PDF to Brian Mondragón Jones, Executive Director, at [bmjones@aaea.org](mailto:bmjones@aaea.org) by **March 1, 2014**. Decisions will be made by early April. Third-party nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.

## C-FARE Update

### C-FARE Student Development Webinar–Register Today!

Friday, February 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. ET/1:00 p.m. CT/Noon MT/11:00 a.m. PT

C-FARE will host a one hour webinar for students and faculty. The webinar will feature speakers from Washington, DC to provide students with information on internship opportunities in Washington, DC and across the nation, where to look for a summer internship and how to apply. Registrants will receive internship notices and other information.

Register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1585336694299164418>

### Washington, DC Update:

**Farm Bill Update** –On February 4, 2014, the U.S. Senate, with a vote of 68 to 32, approved the conference report to accompany HR 2642, the Farm Bill Conference Report, titled the "Agricultural Act of 2014". The President is expected to sign the legislation into law on Friday, February 7 in Michigan.

- The Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of the Conference is posted at: <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20140127/CRPT-113hrpt-HR2642-SOM.pdf>.
- The Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2642, the "Agricultural Act of 2014", is posted at: <http://beta.congress.gov/113/crpt/hrpt333/CRPT-113hrpt333.pdf>.
- The Congressional Research Service comparison entitled: The 2014 Farm Bill: A

Comparison of the Conference Agreement with the Senate–Passed (S. 954) and House–Passed (H.R. 2642) Bills is available here:

<http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/crs/R43076.2.pdf>.

**Farm Bill Title VII, Research** – One notable change in the research title includes \$200 million of Commodity Credit Corporation funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). The FFAR funding is mandatory and establishes a nonprofit corporation designed to supplement USDA's basic and applied research activities. The Foundation will solicit and accept private donations to award grants for collaborative public/private partnerships with scientists at USDA and in academia, nonprofits, and the private sector. The Board of Directors consists of the following ex-officio members: the Secretary of Agriculture; the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics; the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service; the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and the Director of the National Science Foundation. Eight at-large board members shall be selected from a list of candidates to be provided by the National Academy of Sciences. Seven at-large board members will be selected from candidates provided by industry.

### C-FARE Cooperatives Education Project Mentioned in Rural Cooperatives Magazine

The C-FARE Board is developing a supplemental

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## C-FARE Update

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teaching module focusing on the economics of cooperatives to be shared with the various State Councils of Economic Education and the nationally based Council for Economic Education (<http://www.councilforeconed.org/about/>). The State Councils provide economic education and financial literacy to K-12 students by educating the educators. For more information on the project, please see: <http://www.cfare.org/publications/the-role-of-cooperatives-in-the-nations-economy>. To view the USDA Rural Development, Rural Cooperatives Magazine, please view page 36, the Newline Section of the publication here: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/RDCoopMagJan\\_Feb2014.pdf](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/RDCoopMagJan_Feb2014.pdf).

### **The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)**

C-FARE is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural economics profession. C-FARE's governing board includes prominent agricultural economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests.

900 Second Street, NE Suite 205

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[www.cfare.org](http://www.cfare.org)

Follow C-FARE on Facebook and Twitter!



### ***Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2014!***

You can renew your AAEA membership for 2014 on the AAEA website (<http://www.aaea.org/membership/>). Simply log in to the My Account section to renew. Completing your renewal online saves time by filling out most of the information for you automatically.

Alternatively, if you prefer to renew using the paper form, be sure to keep an eye on your mailbox as paper forms will be sent in out in early 2014.

The benefits of your AAEA membership only last through the spring of 2014, so be sure to renew soon to ensure that you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.



## Other News and Calls

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### **International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit Sessions on Dairy Policy and Economics Call for Abstracts**

*Tel Aviv, Israel, October 27–31, 2014*

The Organizing Committee invites participants to submit abstracts for Scientific Programme sessions on Dairy Policy and Economics as part of the IDF World Dairy Summit, which will take place in Tel Aviv, Israel from October 27–31, 2014. To learn more about the 2014 Summit, please visit the summit's website at: [www.idfwds2014.com](http://www.idfwds2014.com).

Among the confirmed speakers:

Loren Tauer, Cornell University  
Liesbeth Dries, Wageningen University  
Oral Capps, Jr., Texas A&M University  
Torsten Hemme, Kiel CAU University  
Ayal Kimhi, Hebrew University

The Scientific Programme will include invited and contributed oral presentations as well as poster sessions. Submissions in the following areas of interest are encouraged:

- Changes in the dairy industry and forecasts
- Public policy in the dairy sector
- Milk production efficiency
- The structure of the dairy industry
- International trade in dairy products

If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster, please submit an abstract at [www.idfwds2014.com/abstracts.aspx](http://www.idfwds2014.com/abstracts.aspx).

The deadline is **May 30, 2014**.

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### **VI Congress of the Spanish-Portuguese Association of Resource and Environmental Economics (AERNA) Call for Papers**

The VI Congress of the Spanish–Portuguese Association of Resource and Environmental Economics (AERNA) in collaboration with the Spanish Association for Energy Economics (AEEE) are inviting original papers in all areas of environmental and natural resource economics for presentation. The congress will be held in Girona, Spain, from September 4–6, 2014. Theoretical and applied research is equally appreciated. Papers need to be submitted electronically through the conference website before **February 15th, 2014**.

**Venue:** Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences, University of Girona

**Chairs of the program Committee:** Maria José Gutierrez and Angels Xabadia

**Chair of the organising committee:** Renan Goetz  
**Conference secretariat:** Carme Cañizares  
([aerna2014@udg.edu](mailto:aerna2014@udg.edu))

**Important dates:**

**February 15, 2014:** Deadline for paper submission  
**April 1, 2014:** Notification of acceptance  
**June 10, 2014:** Deadline for early registration  
**June 30, 2014:** Preliminary program

**For more information, please visit:**

<http://www.udg.edu/jornades/VI CongresoAerna/Inici/tabid/20617/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## Other News and Calls

### University of Porto Center for Economics and Finance for Doctoral Program in Economics Seminar

#### Call for Papers

In 2013 the Doctoral Program in Economics hosted by the University of Porto, Faculdade de Economia do Porto (FEP) and CEF.UP, the Center for Economics and Finance at the University of Porto, celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Doctoral Program in Economics, the Scientific Board is organizing a special edition (the 10<sup>th</sup>) of the Students' Seminar Day to be held on May 9, 2014. In this Seminar Day, PhD students or recent pos-docs from Portuguese or foreign universities will have the opportunity to present their research work and to benefit from the discussion that will take place during the forum. Articles in all fields

of economics will be considered.

**Workshop:** How to Publish in a Top Journal?  
Daniel S. Hamermesh, University of Texas at Austin

#### Paper Submission

Full papers and a short CV of the presenter should be submitted by **March 31, 2014**, to Ana Bonança at the following e-mail address:

[abonanca@fep.up.pt](mailto:abonanca@fep.up.pt)

Submitters will be notified about the status of their submissions by April 8, 2014. For more information visit:

[cefup.fep.up.pt/index.php?id\\_page=229](http://cefup.fep.up.pt/index.php?id_page=229)

## Job Openings

AAEA hosts employment ads for positions of interest to our members. Please visit our [Employment page](#) to view the latest listing of job opportunities.



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