

## President's Message

April 2020



I write this note during challenging times. Many of us are working from home learning to teach, or collaborate on-line. We also face challenges for the future.

First, let me address the question of our summer meetings. We are continuing to plan for the [2020 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) taking place July 26–28 in Kansas City, MO. The AAEA Staff and Board are aware of the concerns and uncertainties related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus). Our

top priority is the health, safety, and security of our meeting attendees. We are closely monitoring developments and we appreciate the concerns and information shared with us during this time. We will continue to evaluate and let our membership know the status of those meetings and if we do cancel what alternatives are planned.

I am proud of the rapid initiation of several efforts to meet the needs of our members during COVID-19. For example:

- AAEA hosted conference calls with our section and committee leaders to update them on recent events and initiatives.
- The AAEA Mentoring Committee organized an interactive meeting to discuss the situation our junior colleagues graduating this year, ending post-doctoral or visiting positions and planning to be on the job market may be facing.
- The AAEA Online Learning and Teaching Resources Task Force is working to facilitate peer support for members who are transitioning to online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. AETR is involved with this effort.
- The *AJAE* and the *AEPP* are both working on special issues related to COVID-19.

I also want to encourage members to vote on the AAEA election ballot that went out on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who were willing to run for these offices. It is an honor to serve our profession.

### Kansas City, MO Fun Fact Friday

April 17, 2020

Fun Fact Friday: Kansas City, the City of Fountains, is home to more than 200 fountains—more than any other city in the world except Rome, Italy. And yesterday was the opening day celebration in which all the fountains in the city were turned on. #AAEAKC20 #FunFactFriday #FountainDay

April 24, 2020

Fun Fact Friday: Remember The Jacksons!? Well did you know that The Jacksons' Victory Tour launched in Kansas City at Arrowhead Stadium in 1984. It was the last concert tour featuring all of the Jackson brothers together, including Michael. Tickets were \$30 each—now that would have been a show to see! Fans went crazy for the moonwalk, songs from “Thriller” and the other brothers, too, presumably. #AAEAKC20 #FunFactFriday

*Catch all of the #FunFactFriday on Twitter and Facebook.*

The USDA/REE is soliciting comments and suggestions regarding research goals for the future. Written comments must be received by **August 1, 2020**. Topics include digital agriculture, advanced analytics for managing food and agricultural systems, and systems based farm management. I encourage AAEA members to comment and share your ideas with AAEA.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/01/2020-06825/solicitation-of-input-from-stakeholders-on-agricultural-innovations>

Finally, I want to note how many members have been visible in the media explaining the various issues that COVID-19 has presented for our food system. Once again the AAEA demonstrating relevance.







Sincerely,

**Keith Coble**

***AAEA President***

## AAEA News

### 2020 AAEA Election

President-Elect			
			
<a href="#"><u>Bruce Babcock,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>University of</u></a> <a href="#"><u>California, Riverside</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Madhu Khanna,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>University of Illinois</u></a> <a href="#"><u>at Urbana-</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Champaign</u></a>		
Directors			
			
<a href="#"><u>Titus Awokuse,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Michigan State</u></a> <a href="#"><u>University</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Carola Grebitus,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Arizona State</u></a> <a href="#"><u>University</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Will Masters,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Tufts University</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Brian Wright,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>University of</u></a> <a href="#"><u>California, Berkeley</u></a>

In order to participate in the 2020 AAEA Executive Board Election and AAEA Section Elections, you must [join AAEA](#) or [renew your membership](#) by May 5, 2020. Log into your AAEA ["My Account."](#) The Election will close **May 15, 2020**.

---

### **2020 AAEA Mentoring Research Workshop**

**Postponed due to COVID-19 Rescheduled dates: October 7-9, 2020**

All previously submitted applications will be held for the future date. We will also accept additional applications.

Chicago, IL  
Registration fee: \$40

The objective of this workshop is mentor junior faculty (less than 5 years) to transition to agricultural and applied economic departments by providing an orientation to expectations for research, teaching and outreach and develop effective strategies for success. The workshop will focus on constructively criticizing research in progress. Mentoring will include networking, information about the profession, and discussion of current research trends and topic areas.

Mentees will be divided into small groups assigned to one or more mentors. Small group sessions will involve short research presentation by each mentee followed by feedback on their research by the group.

To apply for this workshop, submit a 250 word description of motivations for participating and desires for learning outcomes via email to [mannen@aaea.org](mailto:mannen@aaea.org). If you have any questions, contact Mary Annen at 414-918-3190.

All events will take  
place at:  
[University Club of  
Chicago](#)  
76 East Monroe Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

The Hotel Room Block has been secured at:  
**The Palmer House a Hilton Hotel**  
17 East Monroe Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Reserve rooms online for Hilton Palmer House at:  
<https://book.passkey.com/go/aaea20>  
Or call reservations at (877) 865-5321 and refer to group code: AAEA

---

### **2020 AAEA Annual Meeting Travel Grants**

2020 Travel Grant submissions are open. These grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting in Kansas City, on July 26-28. The amount of the travel grant awarded will depend on the number of applications received. There are Travel Grants for both International and Domestic travel.

The deadline for the 2020 Travel Grants is **May 15, 2020**. Notifications will be sent in June.

<https://www.aaea.org/meetings/2020-aaea-annual-meeting/registration-and-travel/travel-grants>

## Housing and Registration are OPEN

### 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting

About 1,400 participants are expected to attend the [2020 AAEA Annual Meeting](#), which will take place on July 26–28 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown in Missouri.

Annual Meeting registrants will receive a name badge when they arrive in Kansas City. Attendees will also have access to all concurrent sessions, plenary sessions, Poster Receptions, the Welcome Reception on Sunday night, and the Closing Reception on Tuesday night. Tickets for luncheons and Pre-/Post-conference Workshops are not included with the registration cost, but can be purchased separately during registration. Three speaker luncheons will take place on Monday, July 27. Space is limited. View the speaker luncheons on the [luncheon webpage](#). There are five pre-conference workshops and four post-conference workshops. Many of the pre-conference workshops are offering travel grants. You do not need to register for the annual meeting to register for a workshop. View the [workshop webpage](#). Registration and presenter requirement deadlines are subject to change. For more information, please visit [Registration & Travel for the 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting](#).

#### Kansas City Marriott Downtown

200 W 12th St

Kansas City, MO 64105

AAEA Room block will start at  
\$162.00

[Reserve a room in the AAEA  
room block online](#)

#### [Government Rooms](#)

*(Valid Government Employee ID  
required at check-in to receive  
Per Diem Rate)*

## Registration Fees

Join AAEA or renew your membership to get the discounted registration rate by visiting <http://www.aaea.org/membership>.

Register Online

Paper Registration

Member Type	Early (Before & on June 4)	Advanced (June 4–July 8)	On-site (July 9 & after)
Graduate Student Members	\$105	\$140	\$180
Graduate Student Non-Members	\$270	\$305	\$350
Professional Members	\$445	\$520	\$595
Professional Non-Members	\$595	\$670	\$745
Senior Members	\$335	\$410	\$485
Senior Non-Members	\$455	\$530	\$605
Guests	\$60	\$60	\$60

**Guests:** Attendees are encouraged to bring spouses, friends, and family to the Annual Meeting. All such attendees must register as guests in order to participate in meeting activities, at the cost of \$60 per guest. Children under the age of 16 may attend the meeting for free. Guests include any interested party not professionally in the field of agricultural economics or applied economics, or a related discipline. Registered guests will receive a name badge and are invited to attend the Welcome Reception at no additional charge.

## 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting

### ***On-site Childcare***

AAEA will have childcare onsite at the 2020 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO. Childcare will be available Sunday, July 26 – Tuesday, July 28, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm each day for children 6 months to 12 years. You must pre-register for childcare. For additional information or to register for childcare visit [www.accentregister.com/register/aaea20](http://www.accentregister.com/register/aaea20) or [download the PDF form](#).

REGISTRATION: To assure that your child has a place, please pre-register by **July 20, 2020**.

The onsite childcare services will be provided by Accent on Children's Arrangements, Inc. (ACCENT), which will design and run a children's program called CAMP AAEA.

CAMP AAEA will offer age-appropriate activities for children ranging from 6 months to 12 years of age (separated into age-appropriate groups) including curriculum-enriched, hands-on, creative activities, arts & crafts projects, active games, and more.

ACCENT will staff CAMP AAEA with teacher professional childcare providers who have completed ACCENT's specialized training program. In addition, ACCENT's onsite supervisors are CPR and Pediatric First Aid certified.

**CAMP AAEA** will run for all three Annual Meeting days as follows:

<b>Sunday, July 26</b>	8:00 am – 8:00 pm
<b>Monday, July 27</b>	8:00 am – 8:00 pm
<b>Tuesday, July 28</b>	8:00 am – 8:00 pm

AAEA will cover the overall management fee to hire ACCENT to establish the onsite childcare facility. The parent is responsible for ACCENT's standard rates, which are listed below:

	Children 3 years and older	Children 36 months and younger
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	\$55	\$65
2:00 pm – 8:00 pm	\$55	\$65
Full day (8:00 am – 8:00 pm)	\$100	\$115
Additional hours*	\$10 per hour	\$12 per hour
*A minimum of 4 consecutive hours		

*Advance registration* for ACCENT's services is available via the clickable link at the top or bottom of this page. Interested parents will also be able to sign up their children via *on-site registration*, which will remain open

---

throughout the Annual Meeting and will be located directly at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown at the onsite childcare facility. AAEA strongly recommends Advance Registration, to ensure that you have access to this service for the time slots you desire.

AAEA is pleased to make the investment in onsite childcare in response to the needs and requests of our members and profession. We look forward to making it possible for more families to participate in the AAEA Annual Meetings.

### **2020 AAEA Annual Meeting**

#### ***Register for the 2020 AAEA Employment Center***

We invite and encourage you to register for the 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting Employment Center, taking place July 26–28 in Kansas City, MO. This is a great opportunity for employers to connect with potential candidates.

Employers who register may post open positions on the AAEA [Job Board](#), view resumes of applicants who are participating in the Employment Center, and they may also utilize a table in the Annual Meeting Employment Center to conduct in-person interviews with applicants.

Applicant registration is FREE. **Please note: Applicants must be registered for the Annual Meeting in order to participate in the Employment Center.**

For more information, please visit the online [Employment Center](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact [Vanessa Nicholas](#). We hope to see you in Kansas City! [Register Online](#)

### **2020 AAEA Annual Meeting**

#### ***Announcing the 2020 Extension Competition for Graduate Students***

The AAEA Extension Competition for Graduate Students provides incentives and opportunity to develop extension and outreach programs from their research for an extension (usually non-economist) audience. Entries can be based upon the graduate student's research for a thesis, dissertation, or other academic work. The competition is sponsored jointly by the Extension and Graduate Student Sections.

#### **Who is Eligible?**

- Graduate students currently engaged in topics related to agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resources, and community resource economics.
- Those who graduated from such programs in 2019 or later.
- Participants must identify and work with a mentor with experience in outreach or extension activities.

#### **Competition Application Information**

Applications should be addressed to Kate Fuller at [kate.fuller@montana.edu](mailto:kate.fuller@montana.edu) and must include:

1. Student's name, university, department, address, and contact information.
2. Title of the extension program to be delivered.
3. A summary of the proposed/conducted extension program. This should include target audience, delivery plans, communication methods and activities planned for distributing the information to the public such as

fact sheets, press releases, reports, web sites, spreadsheets, presentations, and training activities (4 page maximum). If the applicant was part of a team, the role of the applicant within the team must be made clear.

4. A profile of the applicant's background and research (1 page maximum).
5. The mentor's name, address, and description of the mentor's role in assisting the student with this project.

### **Submission Deadline**

Applications must be submitted electronically no later than midnight MST on **May 15, 2020**.

### **Finalists at AAEA**

Finalists will be selected to make a 15-minute extension/outreach presentation at the AAEA meeting in Kansas City, MO on Sunday July 26, 2020, to a panel of judges, who will then ask 5 minutes of questions. The competition will begin at 8 am. Selection of the finalists will be based on the material submitted and the criteria listed below. Finalists will be notified by June 1, 2020. The top three finalists are expected to make presentations during an AAEA Extension track organized symposium.

### **Criteria for Selecting Finalists**

Criteria for judging finalists and winners will include:

1. Identification of a target audience.
  - a. An explanation of the issue/problem/opportunity being addressed.
  - b. An explanation on how this target audience was identified.
2. Development of an extension program for the target audience that includes:
  - a. An outline of the goals of the extension program, and a description of how the results will address the issue/problem/opportunity and benefit the target audience.
  - b. A summary and explanation of the main elements of the research results to be included in the extension program.
  - c. A summary or explanation of the program in an extension report, or extension presentation, or other appropriate extension communication media.
3. An explanation of extension team development and responsibilities in terms of program development and delivery should be addressed, if appropriate.
4. Plans for evaluating the effectiveness of the extension program.

### **Awards**

Cash awards will be given to those judged to be the top three graduate students in this competition. Award funding is provided by the AAEA Extension Section through membership dues and via support provided by sponsors. Awards are:

- First Place: \$1,000 and a plaque
- Second Place: \$300 and a certificate
- Third Place: \$200 and a certificate

Other finalists receive finalist certificates.

The top three competitors selected will be recognized at the AAEA Awards ceremony. All finalists will be provided tickets to the Extension Luncheon during the AAEA annual meeting.

Submit Entries to:

Dr. Kate Fuller  
Competition Committee Chair  
Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics  
Montana State University  
Email: [kate.fuller@montana.edu](mailto:kate.fuller@montana.edu)

---

## **AAEA GSS | 2020 Policy Communications Competition**

### **Overview**

In today's market, there are numerous job opportunities for graduate students to enter positions in which they must effectively evaluate policy and communicate with policymakers and non-specialists about how certain issues influence stakeholders in food and agriculture. Communication must be brief, yet powerful, with proper objectivity and inclusion of timely and accurate information. Through this competition, graduate students will have the opportunity to gain experience in both written and verbal policy communication.

### **Objectives for Participants**

- Evaluate a given relevant agricultural policy issue.
- Carefully construct rhetoric, both written and oral, to provide objective information needed by decision makers.

### **Participant Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are:

- Graduate students with a graduation date of 2019 or later engaged in agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resources, community resource economics, or a related field.

### **Competition Information**

The first round of the competition will require participants to submit a typed policy briefing, not to exceed two pages (double spaced, 12-point font, including references, figures, and graphics). This document should summarize the background and current status of the issue, key facts (i.e. benefits and costs to different groups), findings, and conclusions. The job of the participant is not to convince the policymaker to take a certain position or vote a certain way, but rather to evaluate, gather and present the necessary information for the policymaker to make an informed decision regarding the issue.

The second round of the competition will require participants to provide a verbal presentation that accompanies the policy briefing, not to exceed 10 minutes in length. Within the presentation, the participant should go into more detail about the specificity of the policy issue as well as include more

key facts and findings from outside research surrounding the policy issue. Overall, the presentation and written brief should complement each other and form a well-rounded effort in policy communication.

### Timeline

- April 2020: Open registration for competition. Selected policy issue prompt sent to participants.
- Friday, **May 15, 2020**: Registration and policy briefing due.
- Sunday, July 26, 2020: Presentations at 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting in Kansas City.

### Competition Application Information

Applications should be addressed to Logan Britton at *logan.britton@okstate.edu* and must include:

1. Student's name, university, department, address, and contact information.
2. Policy briefing (2-page maximum).

### Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted electronically no later than midnight CST on **May 15, 2020**.

### Finalists at AAEA

Finalists will be selected to make a 10-minute presentation at the AAEA meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, on Sunday, July 26, 2020, to a panel of judges. The competition will begin at 8 a.m. Selection of the finalists will be based on the material submitted and criteria listed below. Finalists will be notified by June 1, 2020.

### Criteria for Selecting Finalists and Winners

Criteria for judging finalists and winners will include:

1. Defines the problem, discusses feasibility of the policy ideas and steps, addresses a proper audience, background and supporting research, and addresses government failures or unintended consequences.
2. Integration of knowledge, persuasiveness of argument, and variety of sources.
3. Formal language, appropriate tone, grammar and mechanics, and logical organization of thoughts and ideas.
4. Proper format of policy briefing (proper headings, length no more than two pages, proper citation, ordered appearance)

### Awards

The top three competitors selected will be recognized at the AAEA Awards Ceremony and the winner will receive a plaque at the awards ceremony.

### Prompt

**General Information:**

Labor shortages have influenced the U.S. agriculture sector for several decades. Over the past 15 years, the number of U.S. farmworkers has declined by approximately 12 percent<sup>2</sup>. The U.S. agriculture sector and other industries within the economy have relied on undocumented workers to fill the labor gap<sup>1</sup>. Due to farm labor scarcity and high wage rates, unauthorized migration from Mexico has been incentivized<sup>3</sup>. Labor shortages still exist in the farm sector today because of stricter immigration policies and penalties. The H-2A program were created to meet the farm labor scarcity in the United States due to insufficient able and willing supply of local and domestic labor<sup>2</sup>. Through these programs, U.S. farmers can secure laborers and foreign workers can legally be employed in the United States<sup>1</sup>. Some farmers plant multiple crops each year to increase revenue and mitigate risk, which may extend beyond the 10-month window allowed through the H-2A program. This creates additional transaction costs for operations producing multiple crops than traditional operations<sup>5</sup>. Alternative programs to the H-2A have been developed for farm employees but have not successful in the long-run.

**Policy Changes:**

Suppose the U.S. Congress is introducing legislation to address the issue of labor shortage in the agriculture sector. The legislation includes programs that will modify the H-2A program. The H-AG program allows the same basic package; yet, employers must guarantee workers employment hours equal to at least 95 percent of the workdays in the contract period. This bill redefines agricultural workers to include those involved in livestock and dairy production. This program would allow guest workers employment with a specific employer for 15 months or less. After the H-AG visa expires three years from its issue date, the guest worker must leave the United States for at least 90 days.

**What to Address:**

With no more than two pages (single-spaced and 1 inch margins with a Serif font), evaluate the costs and benefits of the legislation being proposed by Congress. Does it correct a market failure? You should also address any potential government failures or unintended consequences. Policymakers are your audience when developing your paper. If selected to the second round of the competition, you will be asked to present this information to a panel of judges.

**References:**

- Devadoss, S. and J. Luckstead. 2019. "Theme Overview: The Role of Guest Workers in U.S. Agriculture." Choices. Quarter 1. Available online: <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/the-role-of-guest-workers-in-us-agriculture/theme-overview-the-role-of-guest-workers-in-us-agriculture>
- Bampasidou, M. and M.E. Salassi. 2019. "Trends in U.S. Farm Labor and H-2A Hired Labor: Policy and Related Issues." Choices. Quarter 1. Available online: <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/the-role-of-guest-workers-in-us-agriculture/trends-in-us-farm-labor-and-h-2a-hired-labor-policy-and-related-issues>
- Luckstead, J. and S. Devadoss. 2019. "The Importance of H-2A Guest Workers in Agriculture." Choices. Quarter 1. Available online: <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/the-importance-of-h-2a-guest-workers-in-agriculture>

articles/the-role-of-guest-workers-in-us-agriculture/the-importance-of-h-2a-guest-workers-in-agriculture

Martin P. 2019. "The Role of the H-2A Program in California Agriculture." Choices. Quarter 1. Available online: <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/the-role-of-guest-workers-in-us-agriculture/the-role-of-the-h-2a-program-in-california-agriculture>

Osti, S., M. Bampasidou, and J.M. Fannin. 2019. "Labor-Intensive Multiple Cropping Systems and the H-2A Program: Evidence from the Crawfish Industry." Choices. Quarter 1. Available online: <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/the-role-of-guest-workers-in-us-agriculture/labor-intensive-multiple-cropping-systems-and-the-h-2a-program-evidence-from-the-crawfish-industry>

---

### **Call for Submissions: AAEA Invited Paper Sessions 2021 ASSA Annual Meeting**

President-Elect Dawn Thilmany McFadden is soliciting proposals and suggestions for AAEA Invited Paper sessions at the 2021 Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, January 3-5, 2021.

The objective of AAEA sessions at the ASSA Annual Meeting is to share new knowledge of interest to economists. AAEA encourages sessions that will draw widely from ASSA attendees, including sessions jointly sponsored with other ASSA member associations.

A subcommittee of the AAEA Board will review all proposals. Preference will be given to proposals that

1. Cover issues of national and international importance,
2. Expand capabilities and tools for economic research, and
3. Promise a high-quality collection of papers suitable for publication.

Papers in approved Invited Paper sessions are eligible to be peer reviewed for publication in the proceeding issue of the *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policies*. Authors will be contacted by the *AEPP* editors with manuscript submission details.

Proposed formats for the 2-hour sessions may include either three papers with one discussant or else four papers with no discussant. All proposals must include a plan for fostering participant interaction.

Proposals should include the session title and paper titles, as well as the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the session organizer, moderator, paper presenters, and discussants. Proposal text should begin with a short justification of the session, followed by one paragraph abstracts describing the objective and contributions of each paper. The organizer is responsible for ensuring that all individuals identified in the proposal are willing to participate.

All speakers and discussants must be members of AAEA, although the proposal may request a membership waiver under special circumstances. Participants must register for the ASSA meeting.

Please send proposals by **May 28, 2020**, in Word or PDF format to Mary Annen at [mannen@aaea.org](mailto:mannen@aaea.org).

## People Section

### ***University of California, Davis***

- New Appointment: **Matthew Reimer**, Associate Professor
- Position Taken by Recent Graduate: **Anubhab Gupta**, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

### ***Iowa State University***

- New Appointment: **John Crespi**, Director, Center for Agricultural & Rural Development, Iowa State University

### ***University of Kentucky***

- Retirements: **Mike Reed**, 41 years of service; **Leigh Maynard**, 21 years of service

### ***University of Missouri***

- Awards: **Jason Entsminger**, Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board, 2020 Mizzou 18 honoree; **Sarah Low**, with co-authors **Anders Van Sandt**, **Becca Jablonski**, and **Stephan Weiler**, Dan Richman Best Paper Award for 2019
- Position taken by Recent Graduate: **Seungyub Lee**, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher (Economics), Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, OH
- Honorary Position: **Karisha Devlin**, co-CEO, Annie's Project — Education for Farm Women

### ***University of Nebraska-Lincoln***

- Award: **Azzeddine Azzam**, Institute of International Education, Fulbright Award to Sweden 2020–2021

### ***New Mexico State University***

- Resignations: **Steve Ramsey**

### ***Purdue University***

- Appointment Change: **Russell Hillberry**, Professor

### ***Texas Tech University***

- Awards: **Darren Hudson**, Texas Tech, President's Excellence in Teaching Award, 2020

### ***Virginia Tech***

- Resignation: **Clint Neill**
- Visitors: None. We are postponing all planned visits until the fall due to the COVID-19 outbreak

### ***Washington State University***

- New Appointments: **Jeffrey Luckstead**, Assistant Professor; **Wes Blundell**, Assistant Professor

- Appointment Changes: **Alex Prera**, Clinical Associate Professor; **Ana Espinola-Arredondo**, Professor; **Greg Galinao**, Professor; **Karina Gallardo**, Professor; **Bidisha Mandal**, Professor; **Felix Munoz-Garcia**, Professor; **Vicki McCracken**, Associate Dean and Director of Extension
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Modhurima Dey Amin**, Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University; **Syed Badruddoza**, Assistant Research Professor, Texas Tech University; **Youngran Choi**, Assistant Professor of Data Analytics, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; **Dolores Garrido**, visiting Assistant Professor, Union College; **Hyeonjun Hwang**, Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade
- Returns from Leave: **Michael Brady** and **Bidisha Mandal**
- Resignation: **Richard Iles**

## Other News

### Food System Research Fund

The [Food System Research Fund](#) has announced an [RFP](#) seeking proposals focused on the economics and market dynamics of alternative plant based proteins. The fund intends to fund several projects in 2020 with an average grant size of \$50,000. **Applications are due April 30th.**

#### *Example topics:*

- What factors impact the cost of plant based food products (e.g. oat milk, Beyond Meat) in retail environments outside of the cost of production (e.g. distributors, retail market up, etc.)?
- What market conditions would have to exist for a retailer to sell plant based food products at a lower price than an analogous animal product?
- How might the price of plant based products be influenced by the ownership of the company (e.g. publicly traded versus owned by a larger food business that offers both animal products and plant based products).
- What is the price elasticity of demand for various animal proteins and how might that be effected by availability of plant based products?

---

### Call for Papers on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The Economic Research Service, USDA and Farm Foundation are sponsoring a 2-day workshop on young and beginning farmers, in order to provide a forum to discuss Beginning farmer and rancher opportunities. The workshop, to be held in September 2020 in Washington D.C., will bring together academics and other researchers and USDA agencies, with the objective of informing practitioners, policy makers, and USDA program agencies in their interactions with young and beginning farmers.

Organizers are calling for papers highlighting empirical data and models that bring cutting edge thinking on one or more themes related to beginning farmers and ranchers (BFR), including:

- BFR Financial and risk management strategies
- Credit availability and access to capital
- Overcoming land access and other barriers to entry
- Farm succession strategies for older operators

- New markets and marketing strategies for BFRs
- State extension programming for BFRs
- NGO and community outreach efforts for BFRs
- Lender initiatives for BFRs
- Demographics of young and beginning farmers, including entry by women, under-represented, and socially disadvantaged groups and veterans

These above themes are suggestive only. In addition to research, we are also looking for case studies of the above.

[A recent report](#) from ERS describes some of the geographic, commodity specialization, and financial characteristics of beginning farms and farmers. In addition to ARMS data, data from the 2017 and earlier Agricultural Censuses are easily accessed and provide an extensive repository of data for analysis.

Full papers are not to exceed 15–20 pages and 4000 words maximum. Authors of selected papers will receive an honorarium from the Farm Foundation to cover their participation expenses, and all papers will be given the option of consideration for publication in a special issue of *Agricultural Finance Review*.

The deadline to submit a one-page abstract is **May 15, 2020** and authors of selected abstracts will be notified by June 30, 2020. Abstracts should be sent to [bfr@farmfoundation.org](mailto:bfr@farmfoundation.org). For more information, contact Tim Brennan at [tim@farmfoundation.org](mailto:tim@farmfoundation.org) (630) 571–9393.

---

## **The Climate Solutions Community**

### ***Paths to Texas Zero GHG Emissions: Electricity, Transportation and Industry***

The Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston (ECH), and Climate Solutions for Texas, a local initiative of The Climate Solutions Community of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, invite you to a Climate Solutions Symposium. **This event has been postponed from April 4, 2020 to August 22, 2020.**

9:00–9:10 am	Tom Rehm, Chair Climate Solutions for Texas Humble TX	Opening comments
9:10–9:30am	Sylvia Dee, Climate Science Professor Rice University	Greenhouse gases warm us Human fingerprint of global warming Evidence of climate change Projections: What is coming
9:30–10:00am	Jeremy Friesen, NET Power	A gas-fired power plant with zero emissions
10:00–10:30am	Gene Preston, PhD Electrical Engineer	Electrification of transportation

	Austin TX	Max renewables using gas to fill in the gaps Max renewables using nuclear and storage Nuclear energy: Zero emissions and safe
10:30–11:00am	Pavel Tsvetkov, Nuclear Engineering Professor, Texas A&M University	
11:00–11:15am	Larry Kremer, PhD Physical Chemist, Citizens Climate Lobby	The paramount importance of a price on carbon
11:15–11:25am	Symposium Gold Sponsors	Our sponsors keep the cost of the symposium down and allow students free registration. Two minutes at podium per Gold Sponsor.
11:25am–noon		Panel Q/A from Audience

Registration: <https://stsaiiche.regfox.com/ech-climate-solution-community-symposium>

The cost is \$10 unless you are a student. Students may attend free by entering the student code of ECH202044.

---

**2020 The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agricultural and Food Science (4<sup>th</sup> ICAFS2020)**  
**ICAFS2020, October 28-30, 2020, Istanbul Turkey**

<https://icafs.apaset.org/>

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to participate in The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agricultural and Food Science (4<sup>th</sup> ICAFS 2020) to be held in Istanbul, Turkey during October 28–30, 2020. For more details, please visit <https://icafs.apaset.org/>

**Organizers:** The conference is organized by Asia–Pacific Association of Science Engineering and Technology; Bahri Dağdaş International Agricultural Research Institute, in cooperation with multiple academic affiliations.

**Topics & Themes:** It has been designed to provide an innovative and comprehensive overview of agricultural and food science. A focus will be given on: 1. Agriculture & Plant Biotechnology, Medicinal Plants; 2. Animal Biotechnology, Veterinary and Livestock Science; 3. Aquiculture, Fishery and Marine Biotechnology; 4. Soil & Environmental Science and Microbiology; 5. Food Science and Nutrition; 6. Agriculture Sustainable, Resources & Environment; 7. Related Agricultural Engineering, Economic & Management, etc.

**Program & Event:** The full conference days will last for two days. After the conference, there will be an academic visit to local institutions.

**Previous:** Previous ICAFS were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2019), Istanbul, Turkey (2018) and Lahore, Pakistan (2017).

**Venue:** Istanbul, historically known as Constantinople and Byzantium, is the most populous city in Turkey and the country's economic, cultural, and historic center.

We look forward to an exciting meeting that promises great scientific debate and enjoyable interaction in Istanbul, Turkey. Please kindly help to bring this notice to the attention of any of your colleagues who may be interested in participating in the conference ([Download Flyer](#), [Registration Form](#)).

**Abstract Submission Deadline: August 25, 2020**

With best regards,  
ICAFS2020 Secretariat, on behalf of the  
Organizing Committee of ICAFS  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Email: [icafs@apaset.org](mailto:icafs@apaset.org)  
Website: <https://icafs.apaset.org/>

---

## **Fall 2020 Issue of the Western Economic Forum**

### ***Submission Guidelines***

**Guidelines for Submitting Manuscripts:** All submissions to the Western Economics Forum must be submitted electronically in MS Word format. Author and institutional identifications will be removed from MS Word submissions by the editorial team prior to being sent to reviewers. Receipt of manuscripts will be acknowledged by email.

**Authors' Identification and Title Page:** To protect their anonymity in the review process, *authors should not identify themselves on the title page or in any headers. A separate title page must be sent as an attachment to the editors* via email, and should include: (i) title; (ii) author names; and (iii) name, phone number, and email address of the corresponding author.

**Text Preparation and Style Guide:** Regular Articles: Final published length of regular articles for the WEF is targeted for 8–12 pages in final form or 2,500 words in length, with a maximum length of 15–20 pages in final form or 3,500 words in length – including reference list, tables and figures. There may be flexibility to accept more pages if appropriate – at the discretion of the editors. Double-space all text, including the abstract, acknowledgments, footnotes, and references. Place each table and figure on a separate page following the references. Make sure that the manuscript follows the style and formatting requirements outlined in the [JARE Style Guide](http://www.waeonline.org/publications/jare/submission-guidelines). (<http://www.waeonline.org/publications/jare/submission-guidelines>).

**Case Studies:** For the Fall 2020 issue of the Western Economics Forum there will also be a case studies section – with the case studies targeted for 3–5 pages in length in final form, and approximately 6–9 pages in length as initially submitted or 1,000–1,250 words in double-space text, including abstract, acknowledgements, footnotes, and references. The *JARE* Style Guide style and formatting requirements will also be followed for Case Study articles. See the [Call for Papers and Case Studies for Fall 2020](#) for more information.

### Article Submissions

All documents must be submitted in MS Word format and will undergo double-blind peer-review before being considered for publication. Submit articles for the Fall 2020 WEF Journal to Editorial Team member Daniel M. O'Brien by email attachment at: [dobrien@ksu.edu](mailto:dobrien@ksu.edu).

### Author Rights

Authors who publish in the *WEF* retain copyright and publishing rights without restrictions and grant the journal right of first publication. Authors grant the Western Agricultural Economics Association and the *Western Economics Forum* a license to publish and distribute the work under a [Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#), which allows others to share the work for noncommercial purposes, provided that (i) they acknowledge the work's authorship and initial publication in *JARE* and (ii) this is not done for commercial purposes. (More information can be found [here](#)).

Authors may enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements for the non-exclusive distribution of *JARE*'s published version of the work. This includes but is not limited to reproducing the contribution separately, in a university or institutional repository, or in any derivative work of which they are the author(s) or editor(s), subject only to giving proper credit in the work to the original publication of the contribution by the *WEF*.

### Instructions for Accepted Manuscripts

The final versions of accepted papers should follow standard *WEF* submission guidelines, paying particular attention to the [JARE Style Guide](#). Authors should also upload the native file in MS Word format. The final manuscript file should include a title page with the title, running head, authors' names and affiliations, abstract, keywords, JEL codes, acknowledgements, conflicts of interest, and short description (250 characters maximum).

---

## 6 Congreso Regional de Economía Agraria and IAAE-Inter-Conference Symposium

### ***The Role of the Agribusiness Sector in the Sustainable Development of Latin American Economies***

*October 7–9, 2020, Montevideo, Uruguay*

The Inter-Conference Symposium seeks to provide an expanded regional network for agricultural and applied economists from all over Latin America and beyond focusing on the role of the agribusiness sector in the sustainable development of our rural economies. Providing a platform for discussion, exchange and networking, we are looking to strengthen our profession in the region.

The Argentinian, Chilean, and Uruguayan national associations in collaboration with the IAAE will invite the authors of the best presentations at the Inter-Conference Symposium to prepare full papers for possible publication in a special issue of *Agribusiness: An International Journal*.

The newly formed ISEPA, affiliated with the *Journal of Productivity Analysis* (JPA), encourages all of its many Founding Members and regular membership to participate in this Inter-Conference Symposium. The best presentations will be invited to submit a paper for possible publication in a Special JPA Issue on Latin American economic issues relating to efficiency and productivity.

The website for abstract submission will provide information on the venue in Montevideo and the organization of the Symposium. The deadline for submission of abstracts will be **April 30, 2020**.

Partial funding to participate in the Conference will be available to a limited number of PhD students and young professionals. Details will be forthcoming in the website.

If you need additional information at this time, please contact: Federico García, [fedegarcias@gmail.com](mailto:fedegarcias@gmail.com) or Boris E. Bravo-Ureta, [boris.bravoureta@uconn.edu](mailto:boris.bravoureta@uconn.edu).

---

**Member Benefits**

- [Membership Directory](#)
- [Members in the News Highlights](#)
- [Mentorship Resources](#)
- [AIAE Advance Access](#)
- [AEPP Advance Access](#)
- [2020 Annual Meeting Discounted Rates](#)

**The Exchange**

is published biweekly by the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

Submissions to *The Exchange*:

email: [ascheetz@aaea.org](mailto:ascheetz@aaea.org)

or

[info@aaea.org](mailto:info@aaea.org)

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



*Volume 42, Issue 9–April 2020*

**Open Jobs**

- [Teaching Instructor or Teaching Assistant Professor](#)  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK, USA (Posted: 04/15/2020)
- [Centennial Chair in Community Energy Development](#)  
School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada (Posted: 03/31/2020)

*View Job Openings on the [AAEA Job Board](#).*

**Working with the Media**

What research are you working on? Want to be an expert source for journalists working on a story? Contact Allison Scheetz at

[AScheetz@aaea.org](mailto:AScheetz@aaea.org) [View all Press Releases HERE](#)

**Member in the News**

Do you know an AAEA Member who has made statewide, national, or international news?

Send a link of the article to Jessica Weister at [JWeister@aaea.org](mailto:JWeister@aaea.org) or [info@aaea.org](mailto:info@aaea.org).

[View other Members in the News HERE](#)

**Anti-Harassment and Code of Conduct Policy**

AAEA is committed to the fair, ethical treatment of all of its members and all other individuals participating in AAEA activities or activities connected with, or related to, AAEA activities, while providing an atmosphere that promotes a variety of research, teaching and extension/outreach activities.

AAEA has zero tolerance for, and prohibits any type of, discrimination or harassment, including sexual harassment, either within the organization, at professional meetings, in the field, or anywhere professional activities are conducted under the aegis of the AAEA.

View the [policy](#) here.