

AAEA News

The AAEA Business office would like to wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday season! We would like to share our sincere gratitude for your support of the Association and profession. Thank you to everyone that participated in the 2024 AAEA Annual Meeting, track sessions, organized symposia and other sessions. These activities continue to connect all of us and move the profession forward – thank you!

We look forward to providing continued support as you make positive differences within the Agricultural and Applied Economic fields. Your membership and involvement makes AAEA what it is, and we appreciate the dedication of your time and talents to our field and the Association.

We are grateful for your contributions and hope you will continue to add value to AAEA through your partnership with us. If you would like to become more involved in AAEA, please reach out by email to info@aaea.org or by calling (414) 918-3190.

From all of us at the AAEA Business Office, we wish you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season, and a joyous New Year!

Sincerely,

The AAEA Staff:

Mary Annen, Jeanne Rhodes, Austin Sparbel,
Michael Storey, Allison Ware, Jessica Weister, and Kay Whalen

*AAEA Office will be closed:
December 24, 2024 through January 1, 2025*



AAEA News

Members in the News – Easy Submissions

Sending the AAEA business office links to articles you or a colleague are featured in is now easier than ever! Click the button under the Members in the News highlight for the week to open the form. There are only 3 questions: Name, University/Affiliation, and a link to the article.

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AAEA at 2025 ASSA Annual Meeting

Friday, January 3

- Food Choices and Response to Public Policies: New Evidence on the Behavioral Dimension
- Food Economics: Reaching New Audiences in Public Health, Climate Resilience and Development
- TW Schultz Lecture and Reception

Saturday, January 4

- Local Food Retail Environment: Are Solutions for Equitable Food Access Attainable?
- Farm Labor Supply Challenges and Policy Implications

Sunday, January 5

- Research Frontiers in Agricultural Policy and Trade: Tariff Quotas, Virtual Water Trade, Non-Tariff Measures, and Climate Impacts
- Improving Agricultural Input Markets in Developing Countries: Market Efficiency and Entrepreneurial Dynamics

More information for the 2025 ASSA Annual Meeting can be found [here](#).

AAEA Area Editor Applications Upcoming Deadlines **AAEA at 2025 ASSA Annual Meeting**

AAEA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

High Plains Journal

Jennifer Ifft, *Kansas State University*

“As with any change of presidential administration, there will be uncertainty over the next few months. What is not uncertain is that much is at stake for the agricultural community. Policy outcomes can be influenced through engagement with local and national leaders and elected officials as well as representation provided by commodity and producer groups. Having a seat at the table in the incoming administration is as important as ever.”

[Read more Members in the News](#)

Submit your Members in the News now

Selected Presentation Papers and Posters**Call for Abstracts**

AAEA seeks submissions for Selected Presentations for the 2025 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Selected Presentations are a submission category that represents both Selected Papers and Selected Posters. All submissions are reviewed together, and only after acceptance, will the submissions be assigned as a paper or poster presentation. At the time of submission, individuals will have the option for their submission to be considered as a poster only. There is no paper only option.

Submissions for Selected Presentations must include a two-page maximum, single-spaced abstract that provides a clear explanation of what will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Authors should include in this abstract a discussion of the relevance of the topic, research methodology, and potential for generating

discussion during the meeting. Please *do not include your name, contact information, and sources in the abstract file*.

Abstracts must be received by **January 15, 2025, at 11:59 pm CST**, and must be submitted using AAEA's online [Abstract Management System](#). Material previously presented at other meetings cannot be accepted, and the submitting author will be asked to verify that the material has not been presented elsewhere. When entering the title of your abstract, please be sure to submit the title as you would like it to appear in the program – with proper title capitalization and punctuation.

When submitting your abstract to the abstract system you will need to select three subject codes. The first subject code you select is the subject your abstract will be grouped in when being reviewed. This is an important step as it ensures your abstract will be reviewed by those with expertise in that particular subject. The second or third selected subject code may be used later during the scheduling process if your abstract is accepted.

To assist you with selecting a subject code, the Selected Presentations Committee has created [keywords for each of the subject codes](#). We recommend you refer to the keywords for subject codes to help you determine the appropriate subject code for your submission.

If accepted, sessions are comprised of abstracts with the same subject codes. All accepted abstracts will be presented in person only.

Review Process

All submissions will be subjected to a common, double-blind review process. After the review process has been completed, topic leaders will construct coherent Selected Paper Sessions and Lightning Sessions based on a common topic. All remaining accepted presentations will be assigned as posters. Presentation proposal acceptance notifications will be sent via email from the AAEA Business Office in late March. Emails may be received in spam folders. Should you not find an email by mid-April, please feel free to contact the AAEA Business Office at info@aaea.org or at (414) 918-3190.

Posters

Poster authors should be available during their assigned intervals during the meeting for questions and discussion. The event program and mobile app will list the poster titles, authors, locations, and presentation time. Poster presenters must submit a PDF version of their poster to the AAEA submission site by **May 14, 2025**. Uploads must be below 4 MB in size to be uploaded. AAEA will upload these posters to the AgEcon Search. Posters that miss this deadline will be withdrawn from the program.

Selected Paper Sessions and Lightning Sessions

Up to 8 papers are included in a 90-minute Lightning Session, and up to 4 papers are included in a 90-minute Selected Paper Session. Therefore, each paper presentation in a Lightning Session is allotted 9 minutes, with 7 minutes to present and 2 minutes for discussion. Likewise, each presentation in a Selected Paper Session is allotted 20 minutes, with 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for discussion.

Authors of Selected Papers must submit a full PDF version of their paper to the AAEA submission site by **May 14, 2025**. You may submit an updated version later. Uploads must be below 4 MB in size to be uploaded. AAEA will upload these papers to the AgEcon Search. Papers that miss this deadline will be withdrawn from the program. The full version of the paper has no length limitations, but less than 25 pages is preferred. Double-spaced, 8.5 by 11-inch, single-sided format is requested. Please follow the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* style guidelines, apart from the single table/figure per page convention.

Additional Important Information

If accepted, presenters of papers and/or posters must be a current 2025 member of AAEA and registered for the 2025 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting **by May 14, 2025**. Presenters who miss this deadline will be withdrawn from the program. If your institution will be registering you for the annual meeting, please be sure to notify them of this deadline to ensure that you are registered by the deadline.

[The Abstract Management System is now open.](#)

Organized Symposia

Call for Proposals:

AAEA seeks submissions for Organized Symposia for the 2025 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Proposals are due by **January 15, 2025**, and should be submitted using AAEA's online submission system.

[The Abstract Management System is now open.](#)

Organized Symposium sessions highlight ideas or works-in-progress on a topic involving cooperative or competing efforts by two or more panelists. Symposia may involve panel discussions of prepared questions, debates, roundtable meetings, or other formats. Formal paper presentations are discouraged, nonetheless if such presentations are proposed, the organizer should explain how they will fit into a tightly coherent theme. In all cases, at least half of the session time should be reserved for discussion among the panelists and between the panelists and the audience.

Symposia may offer discussions of policy issues, research methods, emerging research results, teaching or outreach topics, issues in professional organization, or other matters. Proposals should include: session title, session rationale, names and contact information for the organizer and other participants, and a description of the symposium format that includes plans for discussion.

At least one proposer for the organized symposium must be a member of AAEA, and all presenters, speakers, and/or discussants at the Annual Meeting must be members of AAEA and registered for the Annual Meeting by **May 14, 2025**.

All presenters must present in-person.

If you have any questions about submitting an Organized Symposia session proposal, please contact Mary Annen at mannen@aaea.org or at (414) 918-3190.

Please visit the [AAEA Annual Meeting Website](#) for more information about the annual meeting.

2025 AAEA Awards**Calls for Nominations**

- [AAEA Mentoring Award](#)
- [Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis Award](#)
- [Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Awards](#)
- [Distinguished Teaching Awards](#)
- [Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award](#)
- [Outstanding Master's Thesis Awards](#)
- [Publication of Enduring Quality Award](#)
- [Quality of Communication Award](#)
- [Quality of Research Discovery Award](#)

The deadline for all Award Nominations is **February 5, 2025**.

2025 AAEA Membership Renewal

We invite and encourage you to [renew your AAEA membership](#) for 2025! Renewing ensures that you'll stay connected with your association and peers. It also gives you the chance to be engaged with leading edge work being done by our members and support your AAEA through the activities of the association.

You can get involved in the AAEA through:

- **Serving on a Committee:** Each year, AAEA asks our members to help in various roles including being part of an association committee. AAEA has a number of committees that need volunteers each year, including membership, employment services, and the AAEA Trust. You now have the opportunity to express your interest in volunteering right on the [online membership form](#). AAEA President-elect makes appointments in the spring.
- **Joining a Section:** Being involved in AAEA Sections is one of the best ways to make new connections within the profession. Sections are specialized sub-groups of AAEA members organized around similar interests. AAEA currently has [29 Sections](#), each with its own area of focus. Once you've joined a Section, you have many more opportunities to get involved. These include serving on the Section leadership, being involved in the Section's Annual Meeting sessions and activities, and communicating with other Section members through a listserv.
- **Reviewing Annual Meeting Submissions:** Being part of an association means that you have a direct connection to a wide range of expertise in your field. Each year, AAEA takes advantage of the expertise of our members and enlists numerous volunteers to review submissions to the Annual Meeting and make recommendations as to which should be included in the program. When you renew this year, you'll have the chance to indicate your areas of expertise if you're interested in helping the association by serving as a reviewer.

An active and engaged membership is the lifeblood of our AAEA. We appreciate all that you do to support AAEA and hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities that are available to connect with and engage your peers, the profession, and AAEA. If you have any questions about AAEA or about opportunities for becoming involved, please do not hesitate to contact us anytime at info@aaea.org or by phone at (414) 918-3190.

Call for Volunteers: Senior Discussant for Selected Presentations - Paper Sessions

Members wishing to get involved may volunteer for an essential role as a senior-level discussant for Selected Paper Sessions at our [2025 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in Denver, CO, July 27–29, 2025. A discussant will be assigned to a Selected Presentation Paper Session whose topic area correlates with the discussant's expertise. The discussant would be tasked with reviewing the papers within their session, provide constructive feedback and stimulate discussion. The goal is to make these sessions more impactful and meaningful.

Some things to know about Selected Paper Sessions:

- Each AAEA Selected Paper Session is 90 minutes long and can feature up to four papers.
- Each presenter will have 15 minutes to present and 5 minutes for discussion. The discussion should occur immediately following each presentation
- To help you prepare, links to the manuscripts from the authors/presenters will be provided in mid to late June.

Qualifications and Requirements to serve as a Senior-level Discussant

- Tenured Associate or Full Professors.

Schedule of Selected Presentation Paper Sessions.

Monday, July 28

- 10:00 am to 11:30 am
- 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- 2:45 pm to 4:15 pm

Tuesday, July 29

- 10:30 am to 11:30 am
- 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- 2:45 pm to 4:15 pm
- 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Discussants will receive their session assignment and session details in mid to late June. Please click [here](#) to volunteer! If you have any questions, please contact the AAEA Business Office at info@aea.org or (414) 918–3190.

2025 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting**Room Block open****[Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel](#)**

1550 Court Place
Denver, Colorado, USA, 80202
(303) 893–3333

AAEA Group Rate: \$229.00
Reservations must be received on
or before **Tuesday, June 24, 2025.**

Please book using the AAEA Group rate here:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50926533>

Join us at Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel for the 2025 AAEEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting. The fully renovated family hotel in Denver, CO offers access to some of the best attractions in downtown Denver. Experience the best shopping, dining and entertainment including RiNo, LoDo and Uptown neighborhoods. Explore effortlessly thanks to the nearby light rail station, which takes you to Coors Field, Denver Zoo or Denver Art Museum. Recharge after a full day in Denver at their luxury Denver hotel with a year-round heated rooftop pool, 5,000-square-foot Sheraton Fitness center, Topgolf Swing Suite or on-site dining at Yard House and BEZEL. The four-star hotel maximizes your time from a lobby with town-square energy to a full service Club Lounge to more than 140,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. Work smart from a pet-friendly hotel room with free Wi-Fi and a height-adjustable desk with an ergonomic chair. Take in the spectacular views from one of the 138 suites options. Work, meet and relax at Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel.



Choices Magazine: Article Highlight

[Net Zero by 2050: U.S. Dairy's Climate Pledge and Lessons from Idaho](#)

Tyler Hand, Xiaoli Etienne, Hernan Tejeda, and Andres Trujillo-Barrera

We offer insights on Idaho dairy producers' perceptions of the Net Zero Initiative, identifying challenges and opportunities in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Through focus groups, we explore adoption rates, barriers, and necessary supports, emphasizing economic viability and technological interventions as critical to the industry's transition toward sustainability.

Interested in publishing in Choices? Submit your Individual, Theme, or Data Visualizations [here](#).

Call for Applications

JAAEA Area Editor

The AAEEA Board seeks applicants to serve four year terms as Area Editors for the *Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (JAAEA)*. They will join a diverse group of scholars who helped launch the JAAEA. Applications from Scholars across all fields of interest to the broad membership of AAEEA are welcome.

Area Editors at the *JAAEA* are responsible for handling manuscripts in consultation with the Founding/Managing Editor. Manuscripts are assigned by the Founding/Managing Editor to Area Editors who are responsible for soliciting reviews and based on the reviews and their reading of the paper, making a recommendation to the Founding/Managing Editor. The workload for Area Editors involves handling 15–20 papers a year. Area Editors will also help with shortlisting papers for the journal's best paper award.

Being an Area Editor at *JAAEA* offers the opportunity to serve in an important editorial role, without committing the high workload associated with the serving as the managing editor. A goal of the journal is to provide a platform for training AAEEA's next generation of Editors.

Area Editors have gone on to serve as Editors of other leading journals, including Food Policy.

Applications

Applications should include:

- a brief statement expressing interest which should include applicant's areas of expertise,
- curriculum vitae (including descriptions of previous editorial work).

Applications should be sent electronically via PDF to Allison Ware, the Senior Communications & Membership Manager at aware@aaea.org by **January 15, 2025**. Nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome. New Area Editors are expected to be in place by July 1, 2025.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Founding Editor, Tim Beatty, at tbeatty@ucdavis.edu if you have questions about the position.

AAEA at ASSA**Friday, January 3**[Food Choices and Response to Public Policies: New Evidence on the Behavioral Dimension](#) (A1)

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Chair: Beatrice Biondi, University of Bologna

[Food Economics: Reaching New Audiences in Public Health, Climate Resilience and Development](#) (A1)

12:30 PM – 2:15 PM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Chair: William Masters, Tufts University

[TW Schultz Lecture and Reception](#)

6:15 PM – 8:45 PM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Award Winner and Lecturer: David Lobell, Stanford University

Saturday, January 4[Local Food Retail Environment: Are Solutions for Equitable Food Access Attainable?](#) (A1)

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Chair: Gayaneh Kyureghian, IÉSEG School of Management

[Farm Labor Supply Challenges and Policy Implications](#) (A1)

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Chair: Marcelo Castillo, United States Department of Agriculture

Sunday, January 5[Research Frontiers in Agricultural Policy and Trade: Tariff Quotas, Virtual Water Trade, Non-Tariff Measures, and Climate Impacts](#) (A1)

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Chair: Sandro Steinbach, North Dakota State University

[Improving Agricultural Input Markets in Developing Countries: Market Efficiency and Entrepreneurial Dynamics](#)
(A1)

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (PST)

Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Chair: Jeremy Foltz, University of Wisconsin–Madison

More information for the 2025 ASSA Annual Meeting can be [found here](#).

People Section

University of Arizona

- Appointment Change: **Anna Josephson**, Associate Professor with Tenure

University of California, Davis

- New Appointments: **Katherine Hauck**, Assistant Professor; **Erica Van Fleet**, Junior Specialist; **Abril Rambla Calatayud**, Junior Specialist
- Leaves: **Katrina Jessoe**, 10/1/24–6/30/25; **Steve Boucher**, 1/1/25–6/30/25
- Visitors: **Gopi Munisamy**, Distinguished Professor, University of Georgia, Visiting Professor; **Bruce Wydick**, Professor, University of San Francisco, Visiting Professor

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- New Appointments: **Ryan Goodrich**, Clinical Assistant Professor; **Diego Cardoso**, Assistant Professor; **Brittney Goodrich**, Assistant Professor; **Gal Hochman**, Professor
- Appointment Changes: **Mary Arends–Kuenning**, Full Professor, and Associate Dean for International Programs, UIUC College of ACES; **Angela Lyons**, Full Professor
- Awards: **Khashi Ghorbani** (Graduate Student), First Place, AAEA Extension Competition; **Jonathan Coppess**, Associate Professor, Professional Scholarship Award, American Agricultural Law Association for his book *Between Soil and Society: Legislative History and Political Development of Farm Bill Conservation Policy*; **Gary Schnitkey**, Professor, Carl Hertz Distinguished Service in Agriculture, American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers; **Gary Schnitkey**, Professor, Gold Plow Award for 20 years Service to Illinois Chapter American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Mayra Saenz**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Universidad del Rosario, Colombia; **Rocío Valdebenito**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile; **Victor Funes–Leal**, PhD, Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Arkansas
- Retirements: **Peter D Goldsmith**, 25 years of service; **Alex Winter–Nelson**, 32 years of service

International Food Policy Research Institute

- New Appointments: **Emily Kilonz**, Research Officer; **Maria DiGiovanni**, Research Analyst; **Shima Mohamed**, Research Analyst; **Tarig Alhaj Rakhy**, Research Analyst; **Lara Cockx**, Research Fellow
- Resignations: **Lina Alaaeldin Abdelfattah**; **Christophe Kongolo**

Purdue University

- New Appointments: **Dr. Nicole Olynk Widmar**, Director of MS-MBA Food and Agribusiness Management Program; **Trey Malone**, Boehlje Chair in Managerial Economics for Agribusiness
- Appointment Changes: **Brenna Ellison**, Full Professor; **Steven Yu-Ping Wu**, Full Professor; **Meilin Ma**, Associate Professor
- Awards: **Matthew Holt**, Purdue College of Agriculture, Distinguished Ag Alumni; **Meilin Ma**, **Carson Reeling**, **Megan N Hughes**, **Shalamar Armstrong**, **Richard Roth**, European Review of Agricultural Economics, 2023 Outstanding Journal Paper; **Jacob Ricker-Gilbert**, Purdue College of Agriculture, 2024 Lowell S. Hardin Award for Excellence in International Agriculture; **Maria Marshall**, AAEA, Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award; **Michael Langemeier**, AAEA, Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award; **Trey Malone**, AAEA, Outstanding Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy (AEPP) Article Award
- Honorary Positions: **Uris Baldos**, National Nature Assessment (NNA1) Author, U.S. Global Change Research Program

Obituary**Lawrence Peter Bohl
1929-2024**

Lawrence Peter Bohl, 95, of West Lafayette, passed away on Monday, August 5, 2024, at Heritage Health Care.

He was born January 25, 1929, in Pompeys Pillar, MT, to the late Peter Bohl and Ruth (Alles) Bohl Badke.

Lawrence attended Huntley Project High School, Montana State University and received his Master's and PhD at Purdue University.

On December 26, 1952, he married Dorothy Cummings in Montana. She preceded him in death on February 15, 2012.



Lawrence taught Vocational Agriculture in Montana High Schools for eleven years then moved to West Lafayette to work on advanced degrees at Purdue. After completing his Ph. D in 1971, he joined the Agriculture Department as Assistant Professor and Head Undergraduate Counselor. He received many awards throughout his teaching career but said the BEST of all his rewards is the lifetime friendships he developed with his many students.

He was a member of Immanuel United Church of Christ where he was the Chairman of the Men's group for many years. He also volunteered for many of the events that the church held.

Surviving are two daughters, Sandra (Randy) Williams of Lafayette, and Lori Brown of Lafayette, a son, David (Sandy) Bohl of West Lafayette, a brother, Tom (Shirley) Bohl of Madison, OH. Also surviving are six

grandchildren, Adam Bohl, Sara Bohl, Joe Williams, Cody Williams, Brittany Roy and Kyle Brown and ten great grandchildren.

Lawrence was preceded in death by a brother, Jim Bohl; sister, Donna Miles; and son-in-law Larry Brown.

Lawrence's family would like to express thanks and gratitude for the loving care of the staff, caregivers and residents at Heritage Health Care during the sixteen months he was there. All of the people became "his people" and became extended family for him and his children. Many strong bonds and friendships were formed and will continue to be so for his family. Special thanks and love go to Sam, Jason, Chris, Karen and Suzanne for the loving care they gave to him and for being his "bodyguards."

Government Relations & Washington Update

December 2024

Congress Preparing Farm Bill Extension

As Congress enters the last few weeks of the year, leaders are working to address a number of "must pass" issues. Farm Bill authority expired at the end of September and without action by the end of the year, farm subsidies will revert to permanent authority. With Congress unable to reach resolution on a new Farm Bill in 2024, they are now preparing to extend the 2018 Farm Bill for another year. This will move deliberations into 2025 when Republicans will control the White House, Senate and House. While Republicans will have the "trifecta" of control, the policy agenda will be very full, potentially making it challenging to navigate a Farm Bill through competing priorities. The delay in new farm policy comes at a time when farm income is projected to decline and many are expressing concerns that the 2018 Farm Bill does not adequately address the challenges currently facing producers. Seventeen Republican governors recently sent a [letter](#) urging Congress to move a new Farm Bill now and not push the process into 2025.

In addition to the Farm Bill, Congress also has not finalized appropriations for fiscal year 2025. Action is needed by December 20th to avoid a government shutdown. It is expected that Congress will pass a continuing resolution that will fund the government at current levels until sometime in March. The one-year Farm Bill extension is likely to be attached to the funding package. Congress is also considering the inclusion of disaster funding in the package. The Biden Administration has requested \$98 billion in disaster aid, including \$21 billion for producers impacted by hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires in 2023 and 2024. While there is bipartisan interest in providing disaster relief, the House Freedom Caucus has expressed its opposition to the amount requested by the administration creating some uncertainty on how disaster funding will ultimately be handled.

USDA Releases December 2024 Farm Income Forecast

The USDA Economic Research Service's latest [farm income forecast for 2024](#) projects a challenging year for American agriculture. Net farm income is expected to decline by 18.4% to \$128.3 billion, marking a sharp drop from the record-high levels seen in 2022. This reflects declining crop cash receipts, lower government payments, and rising production expenses, despite a modest increase in animal product receipts.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson [called](#) the USDA's forecast a wake-up call, emphasizing the importance of policies that enable producers to weather volatile markets. He stated, "This

report further underscores the urgency for a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that ensures farmers and ranchers have the tools needed to succeed. It's critical that we address the real challenges facing rural America." Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman expressed concern over the economic strain on farmers, especially those reliant on crops forecasted to experience sharp price declines. He highlighted the need for robust safety nets, stating, "Farmers face mounting pressures from rising input costs and declining market prices. A comprehensive Farm Bill must deliver certainty and support for the men and women who feed and clothe us."

With net farm income expected to fall below the five-year average, the ongoing Farm Bill discussions will be pivotal in addressing these economic challenges. Strengthening federal safety nets and addressing rising production costs will be central themes as lawmakers navigate solutions to support the agriculture sector.

Rollins Nominated for Agriculture Secretary

On November 23rd, President-Elect Trump announced Brooke Rollins as his selection to serve as Secretary of Agriculture. Rollins is a native of Texas who grew up on a farm and was active in 4-H and FFA. She got a degree in Agricultural Development from Texas A&M University. Rollins served in the first Trump Administration as Director of the Domestic Policy Council in the White House. She has is currently President and CEO of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). Rollins has begun meeting with key Congressional leaders as she prepares for confirmation hearings. If confirmed, Rollins will be faced with a number of challenges and opportunities early in her tenure. With Congress unable to complete a Farm Bill this year, she will be in a key position to play a role on behalf of the Trump Administration. In addition, with Trump already stating plans for significant tariffs, retaliations on American agricultural products are expected.

Trump Signals Tariff Plans

President-Elect Trump stated his intention to impose a series of tariffs on day one of his administration. Trump would place a 25 percent tariff on all imports from Canada and Mexico and an additional 10 percent tariff on Chinese imports. He connected the tariffs to these countries role in illegal immigration and stopping the flow of illegal drugs such as fentanyl into the United States. The move is seen by some as a negotiating tactic to push action by the countries to address their policies on drugs and immigration. Trump has also proposed 100 percent tariffs on BRICS countries should they move away from the US dollar to a new currency of choice. Agricultural products are usual targets for retaliations when the US institutes tariffs. This was the case under the first Trump Administration, which resulted in the creation of a trade mitigation program to help producers impacted by retaliatory tariffs.

Port Labor Negotiations Stalled

Negotiations between the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) and the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) have halted after the ILA walked away from the bargaining table. The parties are operating under a temporary agreement until January 15th after they failed to agree on a new contract earlier this year. The threat of another work stoppage could result in additional disruptions and shifts in the supply chain early in 2025.

In a statement, USMX [expressed](#) disappointment over the ILA's decision, describing it as an abrupt move that disrupts months of progress. The organization emphasized its commitment to resolving key issues through

negotiation and noted that its latest proposal included "significant economic enhancements and protections for ILA members." Despite these efforts, USMX stated that the ILA declined to continue discussions and walked away from the table.

ILA [maintains](#) that USMX's proposals failed to address the union's core concerns, particularly those related to job security and workplace safety. Automation remains a top concern for the ILA. The ILA has accused USMX of presenting offers that would compromise the livelihoods of dockworkers. In a message to members, the union described the negotiations as one-sided and called for solidarity among its ranks as it seeks better terms. Both sides have signaled an interest in returning to the bargaining table, but no timeline has been set for resuming talks.

Other News

Call for Experts: Status of Insects in North America

About the Activity & the Call for Experts

[Learn more about the activity here](#)

Insects are integral to the function of Earth's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. They pollinate more than 90% of flowering plants, are a major food source for wildlife, and play an important role in the regulation of animal and plant populations and in the decomposition of dead plants and animals, and other organic matter. With support from the Grantham Foundation, Moore Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the National Academies Presidents' Committee, and other public and private organizations, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will conduct a study that will assess trends in insect abundance, identify research priorities, and suggest actions to slow insect losses in areas identified as most vulnerable and most critical to ecosystem function. This study will focus on insects in North America, which includes the United States, Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, and Central America. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is seeking suggestions for experts to participate in the Status of Insects in North America study. Using these suggestions, National Academies staff will be looking to build a committee of approximately 16 volunteer experts in addition to collecting information for potential speakers, participants, and peer reviewers for any publications resulting from the activity.

Based on the Statement of Task, staff are looking for expertise particularly in the following areas:

- Entomology
- Scientific fields and technologies that support the study of insect abundance (pollinator species)
- Community or population ecology, including statistics and modeling
- Deep learning, AI, eDNA, and metabarcoding
- Insect monitoring programs of NSF-LTER or NEON sites
- Agroecology
- Landscape ecology or global change science
- Economic valuation of ecosystem services
- Cultural relevance of insects to Indigenous peoples

The National Academies are committed to enhancing diversity and inclusion to strengthen the quality of our work. Diverse perspectives contribute to finding innovative approaches and solutions to challenging issues. We encourage the nomination of volunteers who reflect the populations we serve and also welcome in particular

nominations of candidates from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, women, and early- and mid-career professionals.

The National Academies are committed to enhancing diversity and inclusion in order to strengthen the quality of our work. Diverse perspectives contribute to finding innovative approaches and solutions to challenging issues. We encourage the suggestion of experts who reflect the populations we serve and also welcome in particular suggestions of experts from underrepresented racial, ethnic, gender and sexual identity groups, people with disabilities, and early- and mid-career professionals.

We invite you to submit your suggestions by **December 31, 2024 AT 11:59 PM.**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8120659/Call-for-Experts-Status-of-Insects-in-North-America>

Gund Institute for Environment Funded PhD Opportunities

The Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont (UVM) seeks exceptional PhD applicants to conduct interdisciplinary research on global environmental challenges beginning in fall 2025. Applications are due **January 5, 2025**.

The Gund Institute is a research center dedicated to understanding and tackling the world's most critical environmental challenges, where over 250 faculty, global affiliates, postdocs, and graduate students collaborate widely to understand interactions among ecological, social, and economic systems.

Driven by the belief that research should inspire action, we explore environmental issues at the interface of five pressing research themes—climate solutions, health and well-being, sustainable agriculture, resilient communities, and equity and justice—in partnership with government, industry, and broader society.

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