

## Member Profile:



**Xiaoli L. Etienne**

*Assistant Professor  
West Virginia University*

**What motivated you to pursue  
Agricultural/Applied  
Economics as a profession?**

My father works for the agricultural division of my hometown's local government office in China. As part of his job, he visited rural farms to conduct field surveys, and would occasionally let me tag along when I was in high school. These trips with my dad taught me that these poor farmers are often taking life-or-death financial risks on an annual basis. Coming to grips with this fact led me to study agricultural economics as a career.

In college, I learned that applied economics is a critically important tool to not only understand poverty and risk, but also explain social phenomena and human behavior, solve real world problems, and inform policymakers. I realized that this profession gives me a real opportunity to do good, benefiting not only the poor farmers in China, but everyone involved in the economy.

**Why did you join AAEA, and how has membership in the Association impacted your professional development?**

I joined AAEA in 2008 at the suggestion of my Master's thesis advisor at Illinois. He encouraged me to submit my paper to the AAEA annual meeting in 2009 to seek feedback from top

scholars in my field. I have been a member of AAEA ever since, and regularly participate in the annual meetings.

In short, my membership in AAEA has benefited my career greatly, as participation in the annual meetings provides not only research insights and ideas but also networking opportunities. When possible, I have also taken advantage of opportunities to give back to the profession through AAEA committee work and referee activities (*AJAE* and *AEPP*) as well.

Most recently, I participated in the AAEA mentorship program for early career professionals. I am excited to have a formal mentor to help me navigate through my first few years as a junior faculty member and enhance my professional development.

**What advice would you give to an up and coming  
Agricultural/Applied Economist?**

First of all, read the literature. It not only helps you keep abreast of the newest research trends in the field, but more importantly, new research ideas come naturally during your reading. Reading journals also works to improve your professional writing skills.

Second, be persistent. These days, papers in agricultural/applied economics rarely get accepted on the first attempt. If your paper has some value and adds contribution to the literature, you should work to convince the referee of its value.

Remember that the referee represents your peers; you must be respectful in any disagreements, and address all of their concerns. In general, always be receptive to suggestions from your peers and incorporate them in your paper.

Third, go to professional conferences like the AAEA annual meeting and get involved in your community. These provide the best opportunity to meet new people with similar research interests with whom you can collaborate and make friends.

## AAEA News

### **Call for Applications for the Mentorship Program**

#### ***Mentee's***

As a mentee, you are given the following opportunities to enhance your career:

- Identify successful mentoring connections.
- Gain professional support during career development, advancement and transition.
- Develop important relationships and contacts across AAEA, Academia and Industry.

As a volunteer mentor, you have the opportunity to share your knowledge, your experience, and your insights with the next generation of leaders working in applied economics and related fields. Mentors should have at least seven years of experience/tenure in their current profession and demonstrated excellence in their career. Past mentors have said:

**"I think this program is great and I only wish I had a formal Mentor on my early days in the profession."**

**"This has been a terrific opportunity for me and I am really enjoying it. As would be expected this has forced me to look at my own career and how I am working."**

**"The great thing about this program is that you can spend as little, or as much time on it as you want."**

To apply to become a mentee, please fill out the [AAEA Mentorship Program– Mentee Application](#) by February 20, 2016.

#### ***Mentor's***

**The AAEA Mentoring Program** promises to be an exciting and rewarding journey for all involved. We encourage all AAEA members to participate.

The ideal mentee must possess a strong desire to expand his/her professional knowledge and skills and demonstrate willing to invest in his/her own professional development. Mentee applicants should be in the early stages of their current career (years 1–5). Graduate students may apply if they plan to graduate and begin employment no later than September 2016.

For questions please contact [Brian Mondragon Jones](#) at (414) 918–3190.

To apply to become a mentor, please fill out the [AAEA Mentorship Program– Mentor Application](#) by February 20, 2016.

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**2016 AAEA Annual Meeting EXECON Pre-conference Workshop*****The “How-To” of Experimental Economics in Agricultural, Environmental & Applied Research***

*At the Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA on July 30, 2016, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM*

**Organized by**

Carola Grebitus (Arizona State University), Matthew Rousu (Susquehanna University)

**Organizing Committee**

Jay Corrigan (Kenyon College), Gregory Colson (University of Georgia)

**Program**

Hosted by the new [Experimental Economics Section](#), the objective of this AAEA pre-conference workshop is to teach how to run economic experiments. The primary purpose is to contribute to the attendees' understanding of the research methods and tools for using experimental economics to analyze individual decision-making. The workshop program includes three speakers who will help provide the nuts-and-bolts details of running an experiment. Topics include:

- What type of subject pool should one consider?
- How much in incentives should be provided, and how to recruit participants?
- How to handle difficult participants.
- What is IRB and why is it important?
- Does everything you tell participants have to be truthful?
- How to combine “standard” methods, such as auctions or choice experiments, with novel methods, such as eye tracking.
- How does an experiment including eye tracking differ from a “normal” experiment?
- How to collect and analyze data with eye tracking?

**Schedule**

1:00pm–2:00pm: “I want to run an experiment but haven’t done it before: How do I begin?” Matthew Rousu, Susquehanna University

2:00pm–3:00pm: “I want to incorporate eye tracking in my experiment! Now what?” Carola Grebitus, Arizona State University

3:00pm–4:00pm: “Field Experiments in Agri-Environmental Research” Kent Messer, University of Delaware

4:00pm–5:00pm: Open discussion, networking

**Workshop Fee**

The Workshop fee is \$25, which includes beverages. Pre-registration is required. Registration should open in mid-March, you will be notified when registration is open.

*Sponsored by the USDA Center for Behavioral and Experimental AgriEnvironmental Policy Research (C-BEAR), providing stipends to students (more information to follow)*

For more information, please contact Carola Grebitus ([carola.grebitus@asu.edu](mailto:carola.grebitus@asu.edu))

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**Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2016**

You can now renew your AAEA membership for 2016 on the [AAEA website](#). Simply log in to the “My Account” section to renew. Completing your renewal online saves you time by filling out most of the information for you automatically.

The benefits of your AAEA membership only last through the spring of 2016, so be sure to renew

soon to ensure you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.





### **2016 Teaching, Learning, and Communication (TLC) Section: Graduate Student Teaching Award**

The TLC Section is an active group of AAEA members interested in the theory, scholarship, and practice of learning, teaching, and communication. Given that a large majority of AAEA members have responsibilities in these three areas, the TLC section's activities are developed to enhance members' skills in the on-campus classroom, off-campus workshop, and in a presentation to a community group.

As graduate students are our teachers of tomorrow, the TLC section has chosen to sponsor this award to recognize and encourage graduate students who excel in teaching agricultural or applied economics courses.

Any member of the AAEA may submit nominations and selection is made based on nominating materials. Re-nominations are encouraged, providing materials are updated and resubmitted. The Graduate Student Teaching Award is a criterion-based award and is reviewed by a committee of TLC section members.

The successful nominee will be required to attend the 2016 AAEA Annual Meetings in Boston. In addition, the winner of the award will participate as a presenter (10–15 minute presentation) in the TLC section's track session on teaching tips. This session offers the opportunity for Teaching Award recipients to share teaching tips and have a dialogue with AAEA members. The goal of the

session is to share ideas on what successful teachers are doing in and out of the classroom to facilitate learning.

#### **Eligibility**

The nominee must have been involved in course instruction (including one or more of laboratory, discussion sections, help section, and online courses) for a minimum of one year (2 semesters, 3 quarters, or the equivalent). Nominee must have been a graduate student in good standing within the year before the nomination, i.e. cannot have graduated prior to August 2015.

Applicants must hold a current Graduate Student Membership in AAEA.

#### **Selection Criteria**

The following three major areas are considered in evaluating nominations:

1. Quality of teaching;
2. Personal commitment to teaching and self-development as a teacher; and
3. Involvement in undergraduate extracurricular activities.

#### **Nomination Packet**

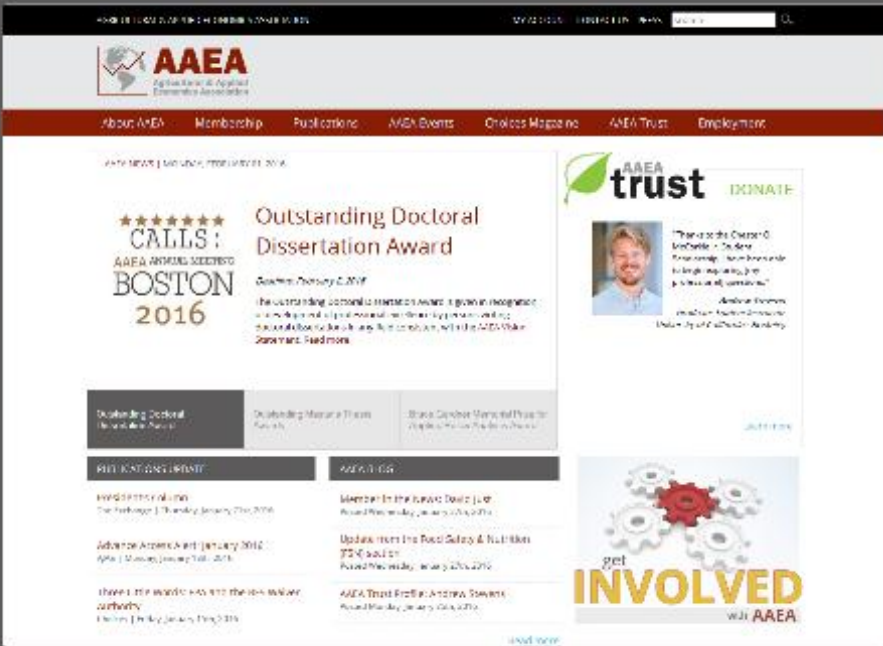
Nominating materials should demonstrate that the nominee has outstanding ability and performance as a teacher of agricultural or applied economics as defined by the [AAEA Vision Statement](#). The nomination packet shall include the following:

1. Award cover page, including membership status to address eligibility. The cover page should include the following information:
  - a. Name, title, professional address, telephone number, email address of the nominator;
  - b. Name, title, professional address, telephone number, email address of the nominee; and
  - c. "TLC Graduate Student Teaching Award Nomination" should be included on the cover page.
2. An essay by the nominee on his/her teaching philosophy, not to exceed five typewritten (double-spaced) pages;
3. A complete description of nominee's specific teaching involvement;
4. A self-evaluation of nominee's teaching activities;
5. A summary of student evaluations of teaching, and no more than two letters of support from current or former students;
6. Two letters of support from faculty, administrators, or others directly involved in the nominee's teaching activities;
7. A statement about nominee's involvement in activities related to teaching (clubs, review sessions, committees, etc.);
8. The nominee's resume/vita; and
9. Supporting materials may be submitted but are limited to three additional pages.

\*All materials are to be submitted as a single electronic PDF file to the Teaching, Learning, and Communication Section Chair.

Please submit a complete electronic application packet by **March 1, 2016**, to: Sierra Howry, TLC Chair, 2015-16 ([Sierra.howry@uwrf.edu](mailto:Sierra.howry@uwrf.edu)) or call (715) 425-4275

## See the new look of [www.AAEA.org](http://www.AAEA.org)



The screenshot displays the AAEA (Applied Academic & Applied Economics Association) website. The header includes the AAEA logo and navigation links: About AAEA, Membership, Publications, AAEA Events, Choices Magazine, AAEA Trust, and Employment. A prominent banner for 'CALLS! AAEA AWARD SEARCH BOSTON 2016' is featured. Below this, there are sections for 'Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award' and 'Outstanding Magazine Thesis'. The bottom section lists various awards and their deadlines, including the 'Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award' and the 'Outstanding Magazine Thesis'.



Looking back at 2015– it was a great year for our section! We sponsored a successful post-conference workshop on "Applying Behavioral and Experimental Economics to Food and Agri-Environmental Issues", co-organized 10 track sessions and one invited paper session. Thus, we have great plans for the 2016 Annual Meetings and we look forward to sharing more details about our track sessions and planned events with you over the coming months. You may already mark your calendars for the FSN Breakfast and Business meeting, which will take place on Sunday morning, July 31 at 9:30 AM. If you are not a member of our section (yet), we would like to encourage you to stop by this event. We are looking forward to seeing newcomers and regulars. Members in our

section address a wide range of research topics in the areas of food safety, nutrition, and health economics.

The FSN membership is free for Graduate Students. For regular members, please make sure to add the FSN section membership when you renew your AAEA annual membership.

At our Breakfast and Business meeting, we will announce the winner of our award for the Best Economics Paper in Food Safety & Nutrition. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meetings in Boston.

***Christiane Schroeter***  
FSN Section Chair

## Other News

### **National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)**

The National Bureau of Economic Research seeks junior AAEA members for attendance at the by-invitation-only conference, "The Economics of Asset Accumulation and Poverty Traps". June 28–29, 2016, in Washington, D.C.

Much attention has focused on improving our understanding of how households accumulate assets and increase productivity and earning potential, as well as the conditions under which some individuals, groups and economies struggle to escape poverty, and when and why adverse shocks can have persistent welfare consequences. The underlying processes are inherently dynamic, stochastic and complex. This conference will bring together leading scholars and policy analysts to integrate and extend our empirical knowledge of poverty trap mechanisms as well as develop implications for understanding the effectiveness of programs and policies designed to address persistent, extreme poverty. Confirmed speakers and discussants include Oriana Bandiera, Ed Barbier, Chris Barrett, Michael Carter, Jean-Paul Chavas, Stefan Dercon, Steve Durlauf, Maitreesh Ghatak, Johannes Haushofer, John Hoddinott, Joe Kaboski, Karen Macours, Norbert Schady, Heather Schofield, Duncan Thomas, and Bruce Wydick.

Junior AAEA members, defined as those with no more than five years beyond completion of their Ph.D., are invited to submit their expressions of interest (EOI) in attending. EOIs should be no more than one page, explaining how the individual will both professionally benefit from and contribute to the dialogue as an attendee. Awards made possible by the generous support of the AAEA Trust include coverage of accommodation and meals as well as an airfare allowance. Submit EOIs no later than **March 10, 2016** to [nberconf@cornell.edu](mailto:nberconf@cornell.edu). Submitters will be notified by early April.

### **Call for Papers: 12th Annual Meeting of the International Water Resource Economics Consortium (IWREC)**

*September 11–13, 2016 at The World Bank, Washington, DC*

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the [International Water Resource Economics Consortium](#) (IWREC) will be hosted by the World Bank in Washington, DC on September 11–13, 2016. The overall theme of the meeting is “Water Security in a Changing World.”

Submissions of papers are now being accepted on the following topics:

- Addressing the food–energy–health environment and water nexus
- Assessing large– and small–scale irrigation investments
- Moving toward integrated urban and basin management
- Dealing with groundwater depletion
- Ensuring environmental flows
- Managing floods and droughts and their economy–wide impacts
- Improving transboundary water management

Within these topics, papers with a focus on economic growth and/or poverty linkages are encouraged. Papers on other topics that fall under the theme of the meeting will also be considered. The papers should be policy-oriented and analytically rigorous.

The Annual Meeting will begin with a reception in the evening of September 11, 2016, and span over two days with 6–7 sessions and 1–2 panel discussions on September 12–13, 2016.

#### **Schedule**

<b><a href="#">**February 29, 2016**</a></b>	Papers due
March 31, 2016	Decision sent to authors (accept, revise and resubmit, reject)
April 30, 2016	Final papers due
May 31, 2016	Final decision on papers

Please submit papers to [iwrec2016@worldbank.org](mailto:iwrec2016@worldbank.org). Papers should be no longer than 12 text pages (not including reference list, tables, and graphics). All text should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1.5 line-spacing and 1” margins on all sides.

The Organizing Committee will consider only papers submitted by members of IWREC. To become an IWREC member, please send a request by email to [john.janmaat@ubc.ca](mailto:john.janmaat@ubc.ca) with “Joining IWREC” in the subject line. There is no IWREC membership fee.

The Organizing Committee is considering publication plans for special journal issues.

**Further Information**

For more information on IWREC, visit  
<http://iwrec.ok.ubc.ca>

For more information on the Annual Meeting, send  
an email to

[iwrec2016@worldbank.org](mailto:iwrec2016@worldbank.org) or [sscheierling@worldbank.org](mailto:sscheierling@worldbank.org)

*\*\* Deadline for submission of papers for the 12th Annual Meeting of IWREC has been extended from January 31, 2016, to February 29, 2016.*

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**5th AAAE Conference**

The African Association of Agricultural Economists invites you to participate during its 5th International Conference in Addis Ababa. The theme of the conference is “Transforming smallholder agriculture in Africa: The role of policy and governance.” The meeting will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from September 23–26, 2016.

Lying in the heart of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, also known as the capital city of Africa, the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC–AA) combines architectural elegance with the very latest technology and sheer practicality to offer the ideal venue for all your meetings and conferences.

**Important Dates**

- Submissions deadline for all contributions: April 11, 2016
- Early Bird Registration Opens: April 4, 2016
- Notification of Acceptance of Papers: June 6, 2016
- Early Bird Registration Deadline: June 20, 2016
- Presenting Authors Registration Deadline: July 18, 2016
- Deadline for Revised Papers Submissions: July 22, 2016
- 5th AAAE Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: September 23–26, 2016

**Preliminary Information**

1. Full papers in English and French should be submitted electronically to [conference@aaae-africa.org](mailto:conference@aaae-africa.org)
2. The manuscript should include an abstract at the beginning of not more than 250 words.
3. The text should be presented in Times New Roman 12 pt., 1.15 Line spacing in Microsoft Word with 2.54 cm margins on A4 paper size.
4. The title page should include the title, the name(s) of the author(s) and their affiliation(s).
5. Articles should not be longer than 7,500 words

**Contacts**

The Local Organizing Committee 5th AAAE Conference, c/o EDRI  
Box 2479, Addis Ababa  
Tel: 091–140–6500 (0) 91–140–2976  
Email: [conference@aaae-africa.org](mailto:conference@aaae-africa.org)  
Web: [aaae2016.org](http://aaae2016.org)

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## 152th EAAE SEMINAR:

### ***Emerging Technologies and the Development of Agriculture***

August 30th – September 1st 2016, Novi Sad, Serbia



#### **Organizers**

Serbian Association of  
Agricultural Economists  
(SAAE) & Faculty of  
Economics, Department  
of Agricultural Economics  
and Agribusiness,

University of Novi Sad

#### **Background**

At the beginning of the 21st century, analysts have started to raise concerns about the worldwide slowdown of agricultural supply growth in the presence of a strong rising demand for food but also, increasingly, for energy purposes. Hence, in the past decade the issue of global food security has received increased scrutiny and various responses on how to feed the world over the next 50 years have been proposed. One possible response is to increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way that is increasing production while limiting negative impacts on natural resources and the environment. Obviously developments in production technologies in agriculture play a key role in this perspective.

To what extent will emerging technologies such as biotechnology, green technologies or ICT contribute to agricultural productivity growth and global food security? What will be the impact of these emerging technologies at the farm level and in particular on land, labour and capital? What will be the implications for farmers in terms of labour decisions, education and information, for instance? How will the food supply chain as a whole react to these

changes in terms of organization, performance, etc.? Finally, to what extent emerging technologies will affect the multifunctional nature of agriculture and its role in rural development?

The seminar will consider contributions addressing any of these issues.

#### **Objectives**

The main objective of the Seminar is to bring together scholars, policy makers and professionals of the food supply chains who have interest in topics related to emerging technologies in agriculture in order to:

- i) Stimulate discussions, collaborations and future research on the various topics addressed in the Seminar.
- ii) Allow exchange of ideas, knowledge, and experiences between participants with different backgrounds.
- iii) Review and better evaluate the added value of emerging agricultural technologies; take stock of the current experiences with the concrete implementation of such technologies all around the world; gather information on their observed or expected performances in terms of productivity, sustainability and the multi-functionality of agriculture.
- iv) Present new ideas and contributions on how to analyze and measure the impact of emerging technologies on agricultural productivity, the organization and performances of the whole supply chains and rural development.

- v) Identify opportunities, challenges, trade-offs related to these emerging technologies, their impacts and their spill-over effects across countries, in order to support decision-making by policy makers as well as by agribusiness professionals.

### Participants

Agricultural economists, professionals involved in agribusiness, and policy makers are expected to attend and present their theoretical and empirical papers on the themes of the Seminar. About 80 to 100 participants, including keynote speakers, oral paper presenters and poster exhibitors, are expected to attend.

### Keynote Speaker:

- Johan Swinnen, past-president of IAAE, University of Leuven (KUL), Belgium
- Bernhard Brümmer, University of Göttingen, Germany
- Koviljko Lovre, Faculty of Economics, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

### Upcoming Deadlines

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: **January 31, 2016** *Deadline has passed*
- Notification of acceptance/rejection: **March 15, 2016**
- Deadline for submission of full papers/posters: **July 20, 2016**
- Registration opens: **June 1, 2016**
- Deadline for registration: **July 30, 2016**

You need to be a member of the EAAE before registration. Otherwise your registration will not be accepted. EAAE membership fees for the triennial period 2016–2018 are € 100. More information: [www.eaae.org](http://www.eaae.org)

Seminar registration fee (for members of the EAAE): 200 €, for PhD students/research scholars: 100 €. Participation fees include: two lunches, gala dinner, coffee breaks, excursion trip, CD proceedings.

If there are any registration questions please contact Žana Jugović-Bošković – “Astakos”, Belgrade by calling +381 (0)11 2430685 or email questions to [office@astakos.com](mailto:office@astakos.com)

## Priorities and Solutions Update

### Looking for Your Opinion about Priorities and Solutions

What are high-priority research questions for agricultural and applied economists as we address the big challenges facing society? How will we train our students to help answer these questions? How will we engage with other disciplines? What outreach and extension education will be needed?

We need your ideas about these important questions and how answering them will make a difference. Over the next few days you will receive an email about the survey, and we encourage you to respond as soon as possible.

The survey will provide the input for a national workshop to be held May 2–3, 2016, in Washington DC. At that time, the project steering committee, along with representatives from academia, government, NGOs, and industry, will develop a consensus about these important questions that will impact the

future our profession. The results of this project will be presented at a general session of the AAEE Annual Meetings in Boston, July 31–August 2, 2016. This will be followed by press conferences and presentations to stakeholders and funding agencies.

Economics research and education can play a key role in solving these global challenges. The “Priorities” report resulting from the Workshop will inform those who support agricultural and applied economic research about future program opportunities. This initiative will influence future research and analysis, the funding of that work, the dissemination of agricultural and applied economics knowledge, and its incorporation into curricula.

Please watch for and participate in the survey that we will be circulating in the next few days. And, let us know if you are interested in attending the Workshop by sending an email to either of us.

Gene Nelson ([nelson@tamu.edu](mailto:nelson@tamu.edu)) or Caron Gala ([CGala@cfare.org](mailto:CGala@cfare.org)).

## Government Relations Update

### DC Update – President’s Budget

The president’s final budget for fiscal year 2017 included flat funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Hatch, Smith Lever, and other capacity accounts, giving a small increase to the 1890 institutions. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) received a \$25M increase in discretionary funds

over the FY16 appropriation in addition to a proposed mandatory increase of \$325M. The USDA Economic Research Service received a small increase over FY16 appropriations of \$6M. The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service received a \$9M increase over FY16 appropriations. See the full description [here](#).

### Upcoming Events

#### **February 25 and 26, 2016 – USDA 2016 Agricultural Outlook Forum**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the members of this year’s Agricultural Outlook Forum Plenary Panel on *Providing Leadership for Present and Future Generations in the Transformation of Agriculture*. The varied backgrounds of this year’s panelists—academia, business, farming, and media—bring a range of expertise to this discussion on transforming the future of agriculture. The group includes Elizabeth Garrett, president of Cornell University; Ilene Gordon, CEO of Ingredion; Pamela Hess, executive director of the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture; and Pam Johnson, an Iowa farmer and former president of National Corn Growers Association. Thirty concurrent track sessions supporting this theme include the Agriculture Talent Pipeline, Bioproducts, Commodities, Land and Tenure Transition, New Markets, Organics, Risk Management, Scientific Advancement, Trade, and Urban Agriculture. The two-day meeting will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. [Register here](#).

***National Academy of Sciences Arthur M. Sackler Colloquium on Coupled Human and Environmental Systems***

*March 14–15, 2016*

The goal of this colloquium is to bring together researchers joined by an interest in using the paradigm of coupled human–natural systems to advance our understanding of ecosystem and human health. Research on coupled human–environment systems has often been conducted separately in ecology, epidemiology, geography, and other fields for many years,

depending on the study system of interest. Bringing together groups from these disciplines will facilitate collaborations and synergies that cut across the boundaries of traditional disciplines, resulting in greater progress than would be possible with these groups working in isolation from one another. [Learn more here.](#)

***Kickoff Event: Valuation of Ecosystem Services Workshop***

*At the USDA Whitten Building, Rm. TBA.*

*April 12th, 2016*

Please register [here](#). Summary: The [Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics](#) will introduce participants to the guiding principles and proposed approaches for developing a national framework to quantify ecosystem service benefits during a workshop event. The workshop will be divided into a morning orientation and an afternoon of working breakout groups, divided by resource team topic. The morning session will be open to experts who are not on the resource teams. The orientation will (1) establish a common set of principles supported by science to guide the development of monetary valuation and non–monetary benefit metrics and (2) present the causal chain approach to ecosystem service metric development for use by resource teams.

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***Recent Events******Creating the Future Workforce in Food and Agriculture***

*National Academy of Sciences building in Washington, D.C. on February 10–11, 2016*

The meeting was organized under the auspices of the [Academies' Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources \(BANR\)](#). The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C–FARE) co–sponsored the workshop along with other stakeholders. The workshop was aimed at developing a forward–looking set of strategies to guide the recruitment, education, placement, and retention of the next generation of workforce participants in the agriculture, food, and natural resources (AFNR) enterprise. During the two days of the meetings, each discussion group prepared a written action plan that

addressed the group's assigned topic. The workshop “playbook” will be used to instigate research, programming, and support for new and creative initiatives around which employers, educators, and others who are part of the agriculture, food, and natural resource enterprise can take coordinated action. [Dr. Ani Katchova](#), AAEA board member and associate professor at The Ohio State University; [Dr. Claire Narrod](#) of Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition; and Caron Gala, C–FARE executive director all participated in the program on behalf of the profession. [Learn more.](#)



*AAEA Board Members and farm income experts, Dr. Allen Featherstone of Kansas State University and Ani Katchova of The Ohio State University meeting with Committee of Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS).*

### ***A congressional briefing on the “Dynamics of Farm Profitability – Factors Influencing the Decline in Farm Income”***

*U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry on February 11, 2016*

Summary: Farm sector profitability was impacted by lower crop and livestock prices in 2015. Net cash farm income for 2015 was forecast to be \$93 billion, down 28% from 2014 levels. Thin margins are putting increased pressure on the nation’s farmers, impacting the choices that farmers take to manage risks. Speakers discussed the 2016 forecast and updates to the 2015 results for net farm income. Experts discussed the strategies that farmers are using to mitigate lending/repayment risks and the impact of farm-level federal and state policies on farm profitability. National experts will discuss the macroeconomic factors that are impacting the financial situation of the agricultural sector and the impacts of farm policy on farm sector assets, debt, and wealth. Three speakers included [Jeffrey Hopkins](#), farm economy branch chief in the Resource and Rural Economics Division (RRED) at the USDA Economic Research Service; [Allen Featherstone](#), professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University and director of Master in Agribusiness Program; and [Ani Katchova](#), associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics and farm income enhancement chair in The Ohio State University. [Learn more](#).

### ***“Climate Change and Agriculture: Revisiting the Evidence and Potential Solutions” Symposia***

*Coordinated by C-FARE with support from the AAEA and USDA OCE at the AAAS Annual Meeting on Global Science Engagement on February 14, 2016*

Summary: A major assertion in both the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

and the U.S. National Climate Assessment reports is that climate change is already

affecting agricultural productivity, and adaptation is already occurring in response. Effects are spatially heterogeneous and likely to intensify in the next century. Debate and substantial research are needed on the nature, scale, and severity of future climate change; means of adaptation into the future; and potential mitigation actions. This symposium addresses key dimensions of climate change impacts on agriculture, as well as adaptation and mitigation: the projected impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and food security in domestic and international settings; the motivation for adaptation efforts, along with potential strategies and roles for public versus private entities; and prospects for and policy toward the use of agriculture in climate change mitigation. The agricultural sector needs to prepare for two phases of climate change: one between now and 2040, with a global temperature increase of about 1 degree Celsius; and the post-2040 phase, which could range from 2–6 degrees Celsius depending on the mitigation actions taken from this point

forward. Speakers highlighted the current status of agricultural adaptation to climate change, attitudinal and economic hurdles to scaled-up adaptation measures, and the need to intelligently link adaptation and mitigation. Organizer: Caron Gala, Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics; Moderator: Jan Lewandrowski, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Speaker Presentations: [The Underlying Climate Mechanisms of International Food Trade](#) by Thomas Hertel, Purdue University; [Elaborations on Climate Adaptation in U.S. Agriculture](#) by Bruce McCarl, Texas A&M University; and [Climate Change Mitigation and U.S. Agriculture: Promises, Preemption, and Pathways](#) by Alison Eagle, Duke University. About 50 attendees from the AAAS meetings attended the symposia. See the related AgriPulse article [here](#). The USDA Economic Research Service will also host a webinar on the subject of agricultural adaptation to climate change on February 17. Please view the webinar recording [here](#). [Learn more](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### ***Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS)***

Interdisciplinary research efforts to transform scientific understanding of the food–water–energy nexus are well integrated. The overarching goal of INFEWS is to catalyze them in order to improve system function and management, address system stress, increase resilience, and ensure sustainability. The NSF INFEWS initiative is designed specifically to attain the following goals: 1) Significantly advance our understanding of the food–energy–water system through quantitative and computational modeling, including support for relevant cyber–infrastructure; 2) Develop real–time, cyber–enabled interfaces that improve our understanding of the behavior of FEW systems and increase our ability to support decisions; 3) Enable research that will lead to innovative system and technological solutions to critical FEW problems; and 4) Grow the scientific workforce capable of studying and managing the FEW system through education and other professional development opportunities. Deadline: March 22. [Learn more](#).

### ***Organic Agriculture Grants***

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is seeking research grant funding applications from colleges and

universities for its [Organic Transitions Program \(ORG\)](#). The program supports the development and implementation of research, extension, and

higher education programs to improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers, as well as those adopting organic practices. In FY 2016, ORG will continue to prioritize environmental services provided by organic farming systems in the area of soil conservation, pollinator health, and climate change mitigation. This includes greenhouse gases (GHGs), as well as the development of educational tools for cooperative extension

personnel and other agricultural professionals who advise producers on organic practices and the development of cultural practices and other allowable alternatives to substances recommended for removal from the National Organic Program's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. NIFA anticipates having approximately \$3.8 million available in grant funds for the program in FY2016. Applications due by: **April 15, 2016**. [Learn more.](#)

### ***USDA NIFA Fellowships Grant Program for Undergraduate, Predoctoral, and Postdoctoral Students in the Agricultural Sciences***

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture is accepting applications under its AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (AFRI ELI). This initiative is intended to prepare the next generation of scientists through fellowships for doctoral candidates and post-doctoral scholars; promote research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills; and provide immersive learning experiences for secondary school educators, enabling them to identify and replicate best practices to enhance student outcomes. NIFA anticipates having approximately \$18.9 million available in grant funds for the program in FY2016.

#### **Application Deadlines:**

- \* March 18, 2016 for Professional Development Opportunities for Secondary School Teachers
- \* March 24, 2016 for Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate

[Learn more.](#)

### ***Summer Internships at USDA-ERS***

Economic Research Service summer internships are an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain valuable research experience by assisting highly skilled economists and/or social scientists and to work with ERS models and data sets. These positions require individuals with a solid foundation in economic theory and strong quantitative skills; experience with data collection, econometric analysis, data base management, and/or mathematical programming and models; and good communications skills. Interns participate in a wide variety of research projects involving agriculture and environment, domestic and international markets, agricultural and trade

policy, food safety, diet and nutrition, consumer economics, rural development, and agricultural finance. The closing date to apply is February 22, 2016. Application information can be found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/429540800>. ERS is inviting applications from both undergraduate and graduate students for the following grade levels: GS- 04/05/07/09. Summer interns may work from May 1 to September 30, 2016.

*As part of its government relations activities, the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) participates in the following coalitions.*

[Supporters of Agricultural Research \(SoAR\)](#) is a non-partisan coalition of scientific, consumer, and producer groups that seek sound research policies that focus more of our best minds on feeding America and the world, as well as advocate for increased funding for such research. AFRI is a program established by Congress in 2008 to award competitive grants for research projects—at any institution—that apply best ideas from any discipline to the many problems confronting today's farmers and consumers. SoAR Foundation is working to educate various stakeholders about the importance of agriculture research, including full funding for the AFRI competitive grants encourage innovation by directing federal funds to the most promising proposals. See the SoAR letter in support of AFRI for fiscal year 2017 (FY17) [here](#).

The USDA produces a vast amount of data and information that directly inform decisions by food and agricultural market participants; agricultural input and food businesses; banks and other credit institutions; and those who make food, farm, economic development, and trade policy. [Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis \(FASA\)](#) stakeholders depend on the reliable production of timely, accurate, and objective food, agricultural, rural economic, and resource statistics and market information. FASA supports the maintenance and growth of agriculture, food, and resource statistics, data, and analysis through the USDA Research, Education and Economics Mission Area (USDA REE), as well as other sources in the USDA portfolio. FASA has not yet circulated letters for sign-on for FY17.

[National C-FAR](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based, and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension, and education. Both C-FARE and AAEEA collaborate to provide speakers for the NC-FAR [Lunch~n~Learn](#) briefing series.

The [Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation \(RMF\)](#) is committed to promoting a broader and more complete understanding of agriculture and to building upon Charles Valentine Riley's legacy as a person with a vision for enhancing agriculture through scientific knowledge. RMF program activities promote a broader and more complete understanding of agriculture as the most basic human endeavor and to enhance agriculture through increased scientific knowledge. C-FARE has participated in the [Pursuing a Unifying Message: Elevating Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Research as a National Priority](#). The project recently released its [summary statement](#) on January 25, 2016. The document makes many important points, but much to our dismay, it does not mention the important role of intramural economics research or government statistics in the research portfolio. We are encouraging all future documents to be more inclusive and aware of the portfolio of investments. Please [contact us](#) if you'd like to be a part of this effort.

## Job Openings

Be sure to visit the [AAEA Job Board](#)! Our new platform allows employers to post open positions on the site and browse the resumes of qualified candidates. Applicants can apply for these positions online and upload their resumes anonymously, protecting their personal information



## Social Media

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