

AAEA Trust Member Profile:



Andrew Stevens

*Graduate Student Instructor
University of California, Berkeley*

You won the 2015 Chester O. McCorkle Jr. Student Scholarship for your research proposal:

Agricultural Supply Response at the Farm–Operation Level: Exploiting the “Census by Satellite” Approach, what prompted you to pursue this topic, and how is your research progressing?

Ever since spending a summer as an Intern with the Economic Research Service (ERS) at the USDA, I have been really interested in utilizing some of their remarkable new data products in my own work. In particular, the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) gives researchers unprecedented information about land use and crop cover across the United States at a remarkably fine resolution. I have recently combined the CDL with other data from the USDA to construct a multi-year panel of field-level crop choices for several states in the U.S. Corn Belt. This has allowed me to explore interesting questions about what factors influence a farmer’s crop choices. I am specifically interested in developing a deeper understanding of how evolving incentives from global market forces, agricultural policy, and shifting demographics will ultimately impact where, when, and how crops are grown in the United States. Thanks to the Chester O. McCorkle Jr. Student Scholarship, I have been able to begin exploring these questions. I recently presented a working paper at the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco about how the placement of ethanol refineries impacts where (and how much) corn is grown in the U.S. Corn Belt. With

all the professional support I have received from the AAEA, ERS, and individual agricultural economists, I am looking forward to expanding this line of research and exploring similar topics in the coming years.

What led you to pursue food and agricultural economics?

I realized pretty early on in college that economics was a good fit for me. In contrast to purely analytical fields like mathematics or heavily qualitative fields like anthropology, I liked how the discipline of economics pairs rigorous theoretical models and empirical analyses with compelling questions of human behavior. However, I quickly realized how large “economics” was as an academic field and decided I had to specialize. At that point, it became plainly clear that I was most interested in questions related to agriculture and food. I don’t know exactly why. Perhaps it was because the questions in this field are so persistent (for instance, even in the 21st Century, the Malthus–Boserup debate rages on). Perhaps it was because I had spent time on my grandfather’s farm as a child and had developed a nostalgia for rural America. Perhaps it was because the issues of GMOs, organic agriculture, and local food had so strongly captured the public’s attention. Whatever the reason, I have never yet bored of the questions I ask and the problems I study. With any luck, I never will.

What advice would you offer aspiring agricultural/applied economists?

Being an aspiring agricultural/applied economist myself, I feel unqualified to offer my own advice

with any confidence. However, my general advice is to forge as many professional relationships as possible. All the agricultural/applied economists I have met over the past few years have been remarkably supportive and generous with their time, even if they have been from other universities or subfields. Take a chance and e-mail someone with a question you have. If you're at a conference,

introduce yourself to someone whose research interests you. AAEA does a lot to support young economists like me and provides many opportunities to form connections with more experienced researchers. Go to conferences. Present your work. Incorporate others' feedback and suggestions. Ask questions. Follow up on interesting conversations. Take a chance.

AAEA News

Call for Applications: *Editor of Choices Magazine*

The AAEA Board is seeking applications for two (2) editors of *Choices* magazine to help further the strategic goals of the publication as a resource for readers interested in the policy and management of agriculture, the food industry, natural resources, rural communities, and the environment. *Choices* magazine currently reaches over 2700 non-member subscribers, but there is room to grow.



As an online-only publication, *Choices Magazine* is well positioned to evolve along with advances in communication channels and tools. As such, the AAEA Board is interested in considering innovative approaches to the development and distribution of content via *Choices* magazine.

Applications

Applications should include a narrative describing innovative approaches to the development and distribution of *Choices* content. Additionally, applicants should provide a statement of support from their host institution and a current CV. AAEA will provide a small honorarium and financial assistance for *Choices*-related travel.

Applications should be sent electronically in a single document to Brian Mondragón Jones, AAEA Executive Director, at bmjones@aaea.org by **April 4**. Third-party nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.

Choices editors are responsible for the development and coordination of all content published in the e-magazine. The editors provide leadership, coordination, and oversight of all aspects of publishing in conjunction with the *Choices* Editorial Council and the AAEA Business Office. Once new editors are selected, the editors will divide the editorial responsibilities as appropriate.

Terms and Membership Requirement

Editor terms will be determined at the time of appointment but will not exceed four years. Terms will be staggered in order to smooth the transition of future editors. According to AAEA policies, all editors must maintain current AAEA membership while serving as an editor.



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 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

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

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

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

4:00 pm–5:00 pm: 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)

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.



Call for Submissions

2017 ASSA Annual Meeting

President-Elect Jayson Lusk is soliciting proposals and suggestions for AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2017 Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, January, 6–8, 2017. Preference will be given to those proposals that add to knowledge on public issues of national and international importance or expand capabilities and tools for economic research.

Objective

AAEA sessions at the ASSA Annual Meeting share new knowledge with members of other economics associations as well as with AAEA members. Sessions may be jointly sponsored with other ASSA member associations. AAEA encourages sessions that will draw widely from ASSA attendees. Therefore, preference will be given to proposals that jointly serve the interests of the AAEA and other economists more broadly.

Publication in *AJAE*

Papers in these Invited Paper sessions will be considered for publication in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE)* in August 2017. Preference will be given to proposals that reflect a commitment to furnish a high-quality collection of papers suitable for publication. Papers will go through a review process, and it is not guaranteed that all papers in an accepted session will be published. Papers submitted for review should be in their publish-ready state because there will not be time for multiple versions and reviews. Discussant comments will not be published. Authors will be contacted by the *AJAE* editors regarding style and length of manuscripts to be submitted to the editors for publication consideration.

Format

Proposed session formats with three papers and one discussant or four papers without a discussant are permitted. Proposals for sessions without a discussant must include a clear plan for ensuring and fostering participant interaction. Please note that sessions at ASSA are two hours in length.

Submitting Proposals

All submitted proposals should include:

- Proposed session title
- A brief (approximately two pages) justification of the session
- Paper titles
- One paragraph abstract describing the objective of, and new knowledge generated by, each paper
- Names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of the session organizer, moderator, paper presenters, and discussants.

It is the responsibility of the organizer to ensure that all individuals identified in the proposal are willing to participate.

All presenters/speakers/discussants must be members of AAEA. A membership waiver request can be included in the proposal in the case of extenuating circumstances. In addition, participants need to register for the ASSA meeting. AAEA cannot grant registration waivers for the meeting.

Submission Deadline

Please send proposals by **May 1, 2016**, in Word or PDF format to AAEA Senior Meetings Manager, Mary Annen at mannen@aaea.org.

Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a subcommittee of the AAEA Board. Notifications of acceptance will be distributed in June.

Obituary

Andrew “Andy” Vanvig

Andrew Vanvig, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Economics and Applied Economics, University of Wyoming, age 93, formerly of Beach, North Dakota, passed away on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at his home in

Bismarck, North Dakota.

The son of immigrant parents from Norway who homesteaded in North Dakota, Andrew was raised on a farm in Golden Valley County. He attended public schools in the area and graduated from Golvá High School in 1938. He received his BS degree from NDSU in 1942, his MS in agricultural economics from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and

earned his PhD degree from the University of Minnesota in 1951. Andrew greatly enjoyed farming and spent as much time as possible farming near Beach with his two brothers as he continued his education.

He began his academic career as assistant professor of agricultural economics at the University of Arizona in 1952. In 1957, at the age of 35, he was appointed head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wyoming. He served as department head for 25 years and during his tenure the department grew several fold both in size of the faculty and the number of student majors. In 1972, he was listed in Outstanding Educators of America. He thoroughly enjoyed his contacts with students and was always interested in watching their career development after graduation.

Andrew's major research interests were in agricultural finance, international trade and the farm and ranch real estate market. His annual publication on the real estate market was widely used by banks and other lenders as well as farmers and ranchers. He helped organize and establish the Western Agricultural Lenders Institute, which sponsored an annual conference for bankers and other lenders.

Andrew was also active in professional associations and served a term as president of the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) and, for several years, as chairman of the Western Agricultural Economics Research Council. In the course of his career he had opportunities for professional contacts in other countries. In 1958 he was one of ten young professionals to receive a travel fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation to participate in the International Conference of Agricultural Economists held in Mysore City, India.

In the summer of 1965 he served as a consultant to the Minister of Agriculture in Afghanistan regarding irrigation and other agricultural developments. During this time he also helped establish the agricultural economics department at Kabul University. He also facilitated the ability of Afghan students to pursue graduate study at universities in the United States.

Following his retirement from the University of Wyoming in 1991, Andrew and his wife, Connie, became more actively involved in his farming operation near Beach, producing durum, winter and spring wheat, lentils, peas, and alfalfa under a no-till farming practice. They enjoyed alternating their time between summers farming in Beach, and winters in Arizona. "Retirement" was not really a word in his vocabulary. He loved farming as much as he enjoyed his academic career and he continued to manage his farming operation up until the time of his death.

He was an avid outdoorsman and in earlier years hunted big horn sheep, moose, elk, deer, and antelope in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming. He also enjoyed golf, fishing, and hunting pheasants with his yellow labrador, King, and riding his quarter horse, Bar.

Andrew and Connie have contributed generously to support scholarships and fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. Recently, Andrew provided the funding to recognize faculty via the Andrew Vanvig Lifetime Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award.

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. Submitters will be notified by early April.



AAEA ANNUAL MEETING
BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS ★★★★★★
2016 July 31 - August 2

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
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
Web: aaae2016.org

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 Lueven (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.

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.

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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