

Invited Symposia

The Forecast and Agricultural Economics

David A. Bessler, Texas A&M University (organizer), Berna Karali, University of Georgia, Gulcan Onel, University of Florida, Aleksandre Maisashvili, Texas A&M University, Henry Bryant, Texas A&M University, Senarath Dharmasena, Texas A&M University, Oral Capps, Jr., Texas A&M University.

Following the recommendation by Karl Popper, on the use of the forecast in science, and its extension to economics by Milton Friedman, we explore the forecast as evidence of “goodness” in model-building. The session demonstrates the role the forecast can play in improving our knowledge of the agricultural economy.

The Effect of Government Programs on Adult and Childhood Obesity

Rodolfo M. Nayga, Jr., University of Arkansas (organizer), Yiwei Qian, University of Arkansas, Michael R. Thomsen, University of Arkansas, Heather Rouse, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Maoyong Fan, Ball State University, Yanhong Jin, Rutgers University, Susan Chen, University of Alabama.

This session focuses on the effect of government programs on obesity outcomes. Specifically, the session consists of three papers on the effect of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program on childhood obesity and the effect of the SNAP on childhood and adult obesity outcomes using quasi-experimental and non-parametric methods.

Understanding Differences in Voting and Buying Behavior Expressed by the Public

Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University (organizer), John Bovay, University of California-Davis, Kathleen Brooks, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nicole Olynk Widmar, Purdue University.

This symposium calls attention to economically important implications of consumers expressing behaviors in food purchasing settings inconsistent with behaviors exerted in resident, voting settings. Insights from recent and ongoing research are shared.

Emerging Scholars

SAEA Board (organizer), Tun-Hsiang (Edward) Yu, University of Tennessee, Matthew Interis, Mississippi State University, Nicole Olynk Widmar, Purdue University

This symposium features presentations by the three recipients of the 2014 SAEA Emerging Scholar award.

Organized Symposia

The Growing Need for Outreach Education in the Rural Local Public Sector and Why it Matters to the Private Sector

Kayla Brown, Joshua Detre, and J. Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University (organizers), Brian Whitacre, Oklahoma State University, James Barnes, Mississippi State University, Alison F. Davis, University of Kentucky

This symposium highlights the importance in educating leaders of rural public sector institutions on broadband access and diffusion, public health and facilities, and resiliency to natural disasters. The discussant provides insight on how the public sector, in these three areas, contributes to a strong and vibrant rural economy.

Fruits and Vegetables Imports: Trade Flows and Policy Impacts

Ronald Knutson, Texas A&M University (organizer), Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University, Mechel Paggi California State University-Fresno, Marco Palma, Texas A&M University, Fumiko Yamazaki, California State University – Fresno, James Seale, University of Florida, David Bessler, Texas A&M University, John Wainio USDA/ERS

Produce trade impacts of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are explored for potential to increase import share of US consumption. New US safety verification requirements present new challenges for smaller foreign producers. Break points and seasonality of tomato trade flows and prices are analyzed.

The Future of Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine in Global Agricultural Markets: Transition to Market Economies

William H. Meyers, University of Missouri (organizer), Charles Moss, University of Florida, Andrew Schmitz, University of Florida, Olga Murova, Texas Tech University, Ekaterina Vorotnikova, University of Florida, Kateryna G. Schroeder, University of Missouri, Columbia

This session highlights the future of the KRU countries in global agricultural markets, an issue important for commercial agriculture as well as world food security. In particular, we investigate why the KRU region emerged during the 2000s as a major grain exporter, and its potential to expand production and exports.

Southern Crops Outlook for 2014

Nathan Smith, University of Georgia, Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University (organizers), Mark Welch, Texas A&M University, John Michael Riley, Mississippi State University, Brian Williams, Mississippi State University, Greg Fonsah, University of Georgia

The session features four presentations that highlight the current and near-term situation and outlook for crops. The panel brings unique insights to the discussion by adding comments on hot topics of relevance to the United States and more specifically to the Southern states.

Agricultural Economics Graduate Training: Distinguishing the Expectation, Effort, and Experience to Succeed in Master's or Ph.D. Programs

Jerrod Penn, University of Kentucky (organizer), H. Mikael Sandberg, Flagler College, Gabrielle Ferro, University of Florida, Brandon McFadden, Oklahoma State University, Narayan Nyaupane, Louisiana State University

To inform and prepare current Master's and undergraduate students for graduate Agricultural Economics programs, this symposium presents and compares survey results of current Master's and Ph.D. students in Agricultural Economics, followed by discussion and perspective from three Ph.D. candidates.

Livestock Outlook for 2014

Nathan Smith, University of Georgia, Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University (organizers), Andrew Griffith, University of Tennessee, David Anderson, Texas A&M University, J.J. Jones, Oklahoma State University, Ross Pruitt, Louisiana State University

The session features four presentations that highlight the current and near-term situation and outlook for livestock. The panel brings unique insights to the discussion by adding comments on hot topics of relevance to the United States and more specifically to the Southern states.

Legal Risk Management Education in the South and Mid-Atlantic Regions: The Needs Increase

Paul Goering, University of Maryland (organizer), H.L. Goodwin, University of Arkansas, Tiffany Dowell Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Shannon Ferrell, Oklahoma State University

Agriculture is changing and producers may perceive new opportunities in diversifying their operations through energy production on their farmland. Simultaneously, restrictions on water use pose increasing challenges for producers. This symposium provides a discussion forum for innovative approaches to legal risk management education to handle these issues.

A Role for Applied Economics in Veterinary Medicine

Michael Dicks, American Veterinary Association, Amy Hagerman, USDA/APHIS

Economic research related to both public and private veterinary medicine practice is needed to assist the veterinary profession in making resource allocation decisions. The American Veterinary Medical Association spent the last two years developing an economics research agenda. This symposium discusses opportunities for applied economists in veterinary medicine related research.