

BARRY J. BARNETT, 2021 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER



Barry Barnett's contribution to our profession generally, and the Southern Ag Econ Association specifically, is unquestionable. A Ph.D. graduate of the University of Kentucky in 1993, Barnett has served on the faculty of Mississippi State University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Kentucky where he serves as Department Chair. He has uniquely influenced all three departments as a leader, mentor, and consummate colleague. Barry can be counted on to ask the deeper more profound question during a faculty meeting. Graduate students learn to prepare to answer his, "So who cares?" question prompting them to consider the relevance of their work. Peers and students also know that Barry Barnett will be kind and generous.

More broadly, Barnett has served as the President of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and currently serves as the Chair of the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators. In both roles, he has shown leadership and vision for the profession and the members of the SAEA. While Barry was on the executive team the SAEA: 1) moved the journal to Cambridge University Press; 2) created the emerging scholar award, and 3) updated the Association's operating and investment policies. Barnett's other professional accomplishments include his 2019 election to the Board of the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics. He was the co-organizer of the AAEE Applied Risk Analysis Section. Barry has served as Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE)*, and on the Editorial Council of the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*.

Dr. Barnett's research focus centers on two major themes: 1) agricultural insurance solutions for lower-income countries, and 2) analyzing U.S. agricultural policies – especially those related to helping farmers manage production risk. As an indication of the impact of his research, Google Scholar lists, as of September 6, 2020, more than 4,275 citations of Dr. Barnett's 44 publications with an h-index of 29. Barnett has been a seminal thought leader regarding designing and rating index-based insurance products. From work he did with USDA, the first U.S. area triggered insurance program was implemented. In 2019 alone, \$4.7 billion of U.S. crop

insurance is some index product with a premium value of \$861 million. Barry's work was recognized in 2019 as a Publication of Lasting Impact, from the AAEA Agricultural Finance and Management Section, for the 1997 *AJAE* article, "Designing and Rating an Area Yield Crop Insurance Contract."

Barry's passion for international development lead him to apply index insurance in a development context where government costs need to remain low, and data for individual coverage is lacking. His paper in *World Development* with Chris Barrett and Jerry Skees examines poverty traps and the opportunities for index-based risk transfer products. Similarly, his paper with Olivier Mahul in the *AJAE* discusses the linkage between weather risk and poverty. Evidence of the intellectual leadership provided by Barnett in this area is found in Google Scholar, which reports nearly 1000 citations to these two seminal papers.

Dr. Barnett's teaching contributions have varied, but he has been consistently recognized for being an effective teacher. His courses taught include graduate-level microeconomic theory, and research methodology, introductory undergraduate microeconomics, as well as, graduate, and undergraduate public policy courses. He has won Teaching Awards for both graduate and undergraduate teaching from Mississippi State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honor Society. He was also a Member of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Teaching Task Force in 2004.