

Selected Posters

JAAE 2008, Annual Meeting

Changes over Time in Attitudes toward Agriculture, Food, Farming, and Farmers

Rita Carreira, Ranjit Mane, Diana Danforth, and Eric Wailes, University of Arkansas

We surveyed University of Arkansas students to gauge their attitudes toward current farming issues. Data were analyzed with nonparametric chi-square tests. Students view farming and family farms quite favorably but they think that it is the role of the government, rather than the market, to ensure that family farming survives.

Beef Producer Motives and Satisfaction with Vertical Marketing Arrangements

Kellie Curry Raper, Oklahoma State University, and J. Roy Black and James H. Hilker, Michigan State University

Supply chain segments in the U.S. beef industry are aligning with each other in various forms to meet consumer demands. Survey methods are used to assess producer motives for participating in vertical marketing arrangements as well as how producer expectations are met with respect to those motives.

Estimated Economic Impacts on the South of U.S. Agricultural Exports to Cuba

Flynn Adcock, Parr Rosson, Michelle Niemeyer, and Georgia Clark, Texas A&M University

Since December 2001, U.S. agricultural and related product exports to Cuba have reached a combined total of \$1.7 billion. This poster presents research findings on the estimated economic impacts of exports to Cuba, including output, gross product, and

employment. The role of southern ports in these exports is discussed.

Marketing Perceptions of Mid-South Meat Goat Producers

Joey E. Mehlhorn, Timothy N. Burcham, and Richard Joost, University of Tennessee at Martin, Shaun Jackson, University of Kentucky, Rob Holland, University of Tennessee, and Ann Peichel, Tennessee State University

The demand for goat meat continues to rise in the United States and producers need to change their practices to take maximum benefit from the market. Goat producers in the mid-South were surveyed regarding their production and marketing practices. Results showed that the majority of goat producers did not implement a written marketing plan, but they were seeking alternative marketing channels for their product. This survey indicates that goat producers would benefit from additional educational training associated with marketing their goat products.

Examination of Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Rainfall Index Insurance as a Risk Management Tool for Texas Livestock Producers

Lawrence Falconer and Edward Rister, Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M University

This study analyzes the acceptance rate of the pasture, rangeland, forage (PRF) rainfall index program in Texas for 2007 and uses simulation techniques and historical data to analyze the effectiveness of the PRF rainfall index program in providing indemnities that would be adequate to maintain alternative-sized breeding herds over droughts of various length.

A Binary Logit Analysis of Factors Affecting Adoption of Genetically Modified Cotton
Swagata "Ban" Banerjee and Steven W. Martin, Mississippi State University

The 2003 Agricultural Resource Management Survey data were used to estimate binary logit models for three definitions of genetically modified (GM) cottonseed adoption. Results indicate that prior year's GM cotton adoption affected the adoption of GM cotton in the study year using all definitions, whereas refuges or conservation tillage did not.

Estimating the Economic Feasibility of Heating Tennessee Broiler Houses with Solar Energy
Ernest Bazen and Matt Brown, University of Tennessee

This study evaluates the technical and economic feasibility of heating Tennessee broiler houses with solar energy. Results show that advances in solar technologies, rising price of propane, changes in production practices, and government incentives toward adoption of renewable energy sources combine to create financial benefits from adopting solar energy.

Perceptions of Biotechnology among Science Students in 1890 Land-Grant Institutions
Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University, and E'licia L. Chaverest, Alabama A&M University

Colleges and universities are increasingly incorporating biotechnology in their science curricula to effectively educate students about the benefits and limitations of biotechnology. However, students' perceptions of biotechnology remain unknown. How strong are their interests? How do they rank the benefits and risks? How should biotechnology in agriculture be regulated? This study provides answers to these questions.

The Changing Face of Agriculture—Financial Performance Comparison of 2006 vs. 2007 Case Study Farms
DeDe Jones and Patrick Warminski, Texas A&M University

Texas agricultural producers often must respond to significant fluctuations in commodity prices and weather conditions. Extension specialists conducted regional focus groups to develop model farms that describe representative operations for five production regions of the northern Texas Panhandle. Farm financial performance outcomes for 2006 and 2007 are presented.

Creating and Distributing Digital Learning Objects
Timothy N. Burcham, Joey E. Mehlhorn, and Richard E. Joost, University of Tennessee at Martin

Technology affects the ability of instructors to convey information to students in an efficient manner, both in the classroom and at a distance. Three methods of developing learning objects were compared among agribusiness distance education courses. Faculty opportunity cost for development was the major factor influencing technology adoption.

Evaluating the Switch from Cotton to Corn: Impacts on the Louisiana Economy
J. Matthew Fannin, Kenneth W. Paxton, John Beracca, and Huizhen Niu, Louisiana State University

IMPLANTM Pro Input–Output software was used to calculate indirect and induced effects on the state's economy resulting from the large shift from cotton to corn acreage in 2007. The decrease in output from lost farm input spending is offset by increase in proprietary income, resulting in a positive overall impact.

Settling Where the Jobs Are, Thriving Where the Grass Grows
Cesar L. Escalante, Carrie Neely, and Yingzhuo Yu, University of Georgia

This study analyzes correlations between the nationwide distribution and growth rates of organic farm and illegal alien populations in 2000 and 2005. The organic farms' heavy dependence on labor inputs draws suspicions

of correlations in population distribution and growth of illegal aliens available for hire at below prevailing market wages.

Long-Term Financial Impacts of Cattle and Wildlife Management Strategies in South Texas Ranches *Mac Young, Joe Paschal, Wayne Hanselka, Steven Klose, and Greg Kaase, Texas A&M University*

Wildlife is becoming the principal, as opposed to supplemental, enterprise in many South Texas ranches. The trend away from livestock may be detrimental, as most operations will likely need both to survive. This study illustrates the financial implications of management strategies to optimize wildlife habitat and profitability of ranching/hunting operations.

Factors that Influence Stakeholder Groups' Perceptions of Water Quality: Lessons for Policy Makers *Jennie Popp, German Rodriguez, Edward Gbur, and John Pennington, University of Arkansas*

Survey data are used to identify opinions on water quality and residents' willingness to pay (WTP) for improved water quality. Results suggest that significant differences exist regarding opinions on water quality among watershed farmers, other watershed residents, and water-quality specialists. WTP is strongly influenced by opinions as to farmers' contribution to water-quality problems.

Arkansas Women in Agriculture, Changes in Roles over Time *Jennie Popp and Carmen Albright, University of Arkansas*

This poster uses Arkansas Women in Agriculture (ARWIA) survey data gathered at the three conferences (2005–2007) to compare—across types of roles in agriculture and time—women's perceptions regarding: 1) their agricultural roles, 2) successes and challenges they face, 3) how their roles have changed over time, and 4) how that change

has influenced their lives, agriculture, and the rural community.

Cellulosic Ethanol Production from Energy Cane: Estimation of Potential Feedstock Cost *Tyler Mark and Michael Salassi, Louisiana State University*

Mandated ethanol levels, 7.5 billion gallons by 2012, will require additional feedstocks in conjunction with corn. For Louisiana, energy cane is a potential feedstock crop for cellulosic conversion. Producer prices per wet ton of biomass are estimated for alternative yield levels and crop cycles required to cover feedstock production costs.

Identifying Potential Forage Sorghum Production Regions *Greg Kaase, Steven Klose, Melissa Jupe, and Roland Fumasi, Texas A&M University*

In this study, the possibility of growing forage sorghum across Texas for its biomass potential is addressed. Specifically, actual producer data collected in conjunction with Extension business planning services is used to evaluate the potential of forage sorghum to replace other enterprises.

How Do I Decide What to Drink? *Erika Knight, Lisa House, and Tom Spreen, University of Florida, and Jong-Ying Lee, Florida Department of Citrus*

This study seeks to understand the interrelationship between brands of fruit juice and fruit drinks and to investigate weak separability among refrigerated and shelved beverages. A multistage empirical analysis is used to investigate weak separability among refrigerated and shelved beverages. Results will provide information on consumers' behavior regarding their beverage purchases and the structure of this beverage industry.

Quantifying the Economic Damage of Termites in Texas *Dean McCorkle, Dan Han-*

selka, Roger Gold, and James Austin, Texas A&M University

Hurricane Katrina brought about heightened concern regarding the highly destructive Formosan termite being infested in mulch shipped from Louisiana to Texas. In the absence of the economic costs associated with termite damage, economic cost estimates were developed to further educate the public about the potential economic severity of termites.

Preliminary Economic Implications of Beneficial Insect Control of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)

Emily Seawright, M. Edward Rister, and Ron D. Lacewell, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, John A. Goolsby, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, and Allen W. Sturdivant, Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center

Arundo donax is an invasive aquatic weed thriving in riparian areas of the Rio Grande Basin. Its unmitigated growth consumes scarce water resources. A proposed biological control management program may control the plant's growth and spread. This study estimates the program's life-cycle cost and potential economic benefits of recaptured water.

Producer-Level Financial Impacts for Forage Sorghum Production

Melissa Jupe, Steven Klose, Greg Kaase, and Roland Fumasi, Texas A&M University

This analysis illustrates the farm-level financial implications of switching production to forage sorghum as a feedstock in cellulosic ethanol production. Utilizing actual producer data from Texas Cooperative Extension FARM Assistance program, a model farm was developed to determine the financial impacts to this operation with respect to potential contract scenarios.

An Analysis of Why a Share Lease or a Cash Lease is Used for Farmland Rental
Gregory Ibendahl, Mississippi State University, Kurt

Guidry and John Westra, Louisiana State University, and Robert Hogan, University of Arkansas

This poster examines some of the factors that might explain why a particular lease type is used by farmers and landlords in the Mississippi Delta. Despite being very similar, the three states have different levels of cash and share leasing. A mail survey was used to question farmers about their general farming practices, current lease arrangements, and risk perceptions.

Extension Web-Based Learning for Producers Operating on Limited Acreage

Blake Bennett, Jason Johnson, and Rebecca Parker, Texas A&M University

Collaborative-learning Internet courses provide a means of disseminating information to limited-acreage producers. Three multidisciplinary subject curricula were assimilated into an e-learning platform. Incorporating student on-line discussions completed the collaborative learning process. With development complete and classes currently being offered, a model is established for Extension programs nationwide.

Analyzing the Costs of Improving Water Quality on Farms in the Southeastern Piedmont Region of Georgia

Amanda Ziehl, Carter Dunn, Cesar Escalante, Curt Lacy, Dorcas Franklin, and Julia Gaskin, University of Georgia

In Georgia, the southeastern Piedmont is a high-nutrient status area for phosphorus and nitrogen. Certain farm practices utilize more phosphorus and nitrogen from soil or decrease runoff. Six farms modified their crop/forage rotation system to improve water quality. Farm enterprise budgets and statistical methods were used to evaluate the costs of each system.

Effects of Urbanization on the Sustainability of Small Farms in Arkansas and Tennessee

E. Ekanem, F. Tegegne, and S. Singh,

Tennessee State University, M. Mafuyai-Ekanem, North Carolina A&T State University, and U. Adamu, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Using focus group discussions and expert opinion surveys, this study ranks six socioeco-

nomie effects of urbanization on small farm sustainability in Arkansas and Tennessee. Loss of family farms, market expansion/access to diversified niche markets, migration, and availability of farm labor are important issues in understanding small farm sustainability in the two states.