

## Selected Posters

**“Farm Level Comparison of the FAIR Act to the 1990 Farm Bill”** *Edward Smith, James W. Richardson, David P. Anderson, Ronald D. Knutson and Joe L. Outlaw, Texas A&M University.*

Recent low commodity prices have led many farmers to question the wisdom of the FAIR Act and its role in low prices. In searching for approaches to solving the current crisis of low prices some have expressed interest in going back to the provisions of the 1990 farm bill. In addition, U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee and Senate Budget Committee staff members have questioned whether it would have been cheaper to keep the 1990 farm bill as well. This poster reports research results of a farm level comparison of the FAIR Act to a continuation of the 1990 farm bill.

**“Rice INSure: Rice Crop Insurance Evaluation Software”** *David P. Anderson, M. Edward Rister, L.G. Raun, Jr., Joe L. Outlaw and Larry Falconer, Texas A&M University.*

In early 1999, rice producers had the opportunity to purchase revenue coverage for the upcoming rice crop. The available insurance took various forms, but one allowed a particular potentially beneficial “buy up” clause. Expected market prices near loan-level prices associated with projected record rice production and low export demand and a government subsidy on premiums contributed to the “buy up” clause appearing quite effective to Texas rice producers for protecting gross revenue. This spreadsheet evaluates expected insurance indemnities and market returns at various November futures prices and yields. Included in the evaluation are post-harvest costs, rental arrangements, and ratoon yields.

**“The New Economics of Distance”** *William A. Ward, Madhusudan Bhattarai and Pei Huang, Clemson University.*

This paper summarizes changes in real cost of distance using U.S. data from more than 35 years. The decreasing cost of distance has reduced the natural barriers to movement of goods and services augmenting the present trends of globalization and movement towards a global village. However, the rates of decline in the cost of doing business have differed for different sectors because cost reductions have differed across modes and media. We conclude that the dramatic reduction of the cost of distance (transportation, communication, etc.) is one of the major factors for the present trend of globalization of trade and finance.

**“An Economic Analysis of Kentucky Dairy Farm Abatement Cost”** *Stefanie Cruz and Ronald Fleming, University of Kentucky.*

Kentucky dairy farmers are being required to assume more environmental costs to protect surface waters. Have these costs forced dairy producers out of business? A model of production cost is used to investigate this question. Preliminary results indicate that compliance with environmental policies has increased dairy production costs.

**“Integrated Farm Financial Statements (IFFS) 2000 Software”** *Damona Doye and Chris Petermann, Oklahoma State University.*

IFFS 2000 is new, user-friendly software for developing whole farm financial plans. A set of interdependent Excel-based spreadsheets and budget files allows customized enterprise budgets, debt worksheets, balance sheets, and additional information sheets. From these files, a cash flow statement, in-

come statement, and financial measures are generated. The initial plan can be rolled forward one or more years with the same or altered budgets plus capital sales or purchases. Software users will gain a better understanding of the impact of changes in farm plans on business financial performance and position.

**“An Evaluation of the Use of Computers, the Internet, and Decision Tools by Selected Southeastern Beef and Peanut Farm Leaders”** *Wilder N. Ferreira, Clemson University, J. Walter Prevatt, John E. Dunkelberger and Neil R. Martin, Auburn University.*

A mail survey was conducted to evaluate the use and importance of computers, the Internet, and decision tools by selected southeastern beef and peanut farm leaders. The survey data described the level of computer and Internet use of those surveyed by age, education, place of residence, software used, and commodity produced. Statistical differences were found between beef and peanut farm leaders' opinions regarding the use of decision-making tools. However, both peanut and beef producers indicated a strong interest in having access to a decision-making tools web page for assistance with farm management decisions.

**“A Multivariate Probit Analysis of BMP Adoption by Louisiana Sugarcane Producers”** *Steven A. Henning and Hugo Cardona Castillo, Louisiana State University.*

The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 and the amended Clean Water Act of 1987 require the State of Louisiana to develop enforceable policies and mechanisms for reducing nonpoint source pollution of water from agricultural sources. This poster summarizes a multivariate probit analysis of BMP adoption by Louisiana sugarcane producers. Results indicated that education and cost-sharing programs were effective means of increasing adoption rates. Results also indicated that contemporaneous correlation exists within and between management measures, implying a policy strategy of coor-

inating education and cost-sharing programs to maximize effectiveness.

**“Economic Evaluation of the U.S. Atlantic Pelagic Longline Fleet Using a Multispecies Duality Framework”** *Sherry Larkin, Donna Lee and Chuck Adams, University of Florida.*

Logbook data containing catch and cost information collected by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) were analyzed for U.S. pelagic longline vessels that participated in Atlantic fisheries in 1996. These data were augmented with vessel information from the U.S. Coast Guard and fish weights and ex-vessel prices from NMFS observers and licensed seafood dealers, respectively. Using this data, a nonhomothetic generalized Leontief profit function is specified and used to derive estimable input demand and output supply functions. The results are used to derive relevant elasticities for changes in prices and effort levels among the complement of species being targeted.

**“Beef Cattle Producer Attitudes about Current Production and Marketing Practices in Mississippi”** *Randall D. Little, Charlie S. Forrest, R. Curt Lacy, Terry J. Engelken, Fred D. Lehman and Gary B. Jackson, Mississippi State University.*

The research reported in this poster paper determined producer attitudes about current production and marketing practices of Mississippi cattle producers. This poster is descriptive in nature, using reliable primary data. The survey, conducted under contract with the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, was a probability survey, properly weighted and adjusted for non-response. The survey results quantify the level of use by Mississippi cattle producers of selected management practices and highlight differences among size groups in the use of key beef cattle production and marketing practices.

**“Field Adaptive Research Models (FARM): Is This the Avenue to Enhance U.S. Peanut Producer Competitiveness?”** *N. Rob Martin*

*Jr. and Dallas L. Hartzog, Auburn University, Audrey S. Luke and Stanley M. Fletcher, The University of Georgia.*

High production costs can be a major detriment to the competitiveness of U.S. Peanut farmers. Research focused on finding ways to lower production costs while maintaining high yields and quality is essential. Through Field Adaptive Research Models (FARM), various production practices and their impact on costs, yields, and quality can be observed. Some areas considered in this project include tillage practices, seed variety selection, irrigated versus rain-fed sites, and various fungicide, herbicide, and insecticide regimes, which represent potential cost savings. The project is an attempt to determine what steps can be taken to improve the competitiveness of U.S. peanut farmers.

**“Can Twin Row Production Practices Enhance Peanut Producer Competitiveness?”**

*Audrey S. Luke, Stanley M. Fletcher, John A. Baldwin, W. Donald Shurley, The University of Georgia, and N. Rob Martin, Jr., Auburn University.*

Recent research indicates that peanuts planted in a twin row pattern produce higher yields and grades with a lower incidence of TSWV compared to single row patterns. From a yield management perspective, this alternative production practice seems enticing. However, this alternative must also be considered from an economic perspective—what is the effect on the bottom line? Total economic cost must be considered. What additional or different equipment is required? How much will it cost? How long will it take to fully recover the cost of equipment? Do increased yields justify the additional costs for changing production practices?

**“A Least-Cost Evaluation of Alternative Winter-Feeding Options for Cow-Calf Producers”** *James F. Marshall, J. Walter Prevatt, Neil R. Martin, Jr. and Patricia A. Duffy, Auburn University.*

Inadequate winter feeding practices and feedstuff selection decisions frequently contribute to the lack of profitability in Southern cow-calf enterprises. The linear programming solver contained in the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet software was used to select the least-cost combination of supplemental feedstuffs and forages for a group of fifty fall-calving and fifty spring-calving cows. Fescue hay, being the predominant feedstuff fed, was chosen to further evaluate the impact of five sensitivity variables on the least-cost solutions. These variables were shown to have a significant impact on the cost of the selected winter feeding program.

**“Determining A Value For Waste Management in the Southern High Plains Cattle Feeding Industry”** *Joey E. Mehlhorn and David B. Parker, West Texas A&M University.*

Animal waste management issues are becoming increasingly important as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) become larger. As a result, large quantities of biomass in the form of manure are accumulated on feedyard surfaces each year. Economic and energy values were determined for feedyard manure based on nutrient concentrations. The value of aged manure was estimated at \$17,640,000 if the manure was applied to meet crop nitrogen requirements, and \$33,500,000 if applied to meet phosphorus requirements. Energy values from aged manure were determined to be 2,327 billion BTUs if used to replace commercial nitrogen fertilizer, and 2,784 billion BTUs applied at phosphorus requirements.

**“Alternative Peach Crop Insurance Products”** *Stephen E. Miller, Kandice H. Kahl and P. James Rathwell, Clemson University.*

Actuarially fair premium rates for an individual yield guarantee and an income protection crop insurance product are estimated using simulated state-level prices and farm-level yields for GA and SC peaches. The estimated premium rates for both products decrease as mean yield increases, a practice not followed

in the current FCIC rating procedure for peaches. The estimated premium rates are generally similar for both products, implying that peach yield insurance provides revenue protection. A survey of growers showed production costs vary widely across farms, making the implementation of a cost-of-production product difficult to implement.

**“Identifying Factors Affecting Consumption of Peanut Product in a Transition Economy”** *Wanki Moon, Wojciech J. Florowski, Larry R. Beuchat, Anna V. Resurrection, The University of Georgia and Pavlina Paraskova, Jordan Jordanov and Manjeet S. Chinnan, Canning Research Institute, Bulgaria.*

Snack market in Bulgaria, an economy in transition, slowly emerges with progressing market-oriented reforms and privatization. Food manufactures and distributors need information about consumers and their preferences to effectively compete in the emerging market. The primary objective of this study was to identify socioeconomic and demographic characteristics influencing the consumption of peanut tahina, a unique Bulgarian product made of ground peanut. Ordered probit model with sample selection showed that household income, education, age, and regions had significant effects only on the decision of whether to become consumers or not, while having on effects on the intensity of consumption.

**“Consumer Perception of Food Safety and Change in Food Consumption Habits”** *Arbindra Rimal and Stanley M. Fletcher, The University of Georgia.*

Consumer concern regarding pesticides, chemical treatments and microbial contamination has been the topic of many researches. The next research question is whether such concern about food safety translates into change in food consumption habits. If so, it is likely to affect food demand. An understanding of the relationship between public concern about food safety and change in food consumption habits will aid food processors and marketers, and policy makers alike in formu-

lating their programs. The proposed poster will evaluate the relationship between seven types of food safety concern and the corresponding change in food consumption habit of 236 Georgia households.

**“Are Pretzels, Chips and Bologna Taking Away Market Share from Peanut Products”** *Stanley M. Fletcher and Arbindra Rimal, The University of Georgia.*

Consumption of peanut products has been stagnant in the U.S. Change in consumer attitude toward peanut products versus substitutes such as pretzels, chips, and bologna may be the cause of such decline. A market survey of 2880 households collected by Gallup indicated that a sizable proportion of U.S. population do not eat peanut products. More than 26%, 42%, and 36% respondents did not eat peanut butter, in-shell peanuts, and snack peanuts, respectively, in the last 12 months since the survey day while more than 86.8%, 89.6%, and 79.2% consumed pretzels, chips, and lunch meat such as bologna, respectively.

**“Analysis of Supply for Highly Skilled Workers in the Rural South: The Case of Mississippi”** *James W. Swindell, Jr., Gerald Muma, Mississippi State University and Daniel Rainey, Clemson University.*

**“The Effect of Various Marketing Strategies on Cattle Feeder Solvency for Cattle Sold in the Southern High Plains in 1999: An Applied Example”** *Donald L. Williams and Joey E. Mehlhorn, West Texas A&M University.*

Cattle feeding is risky compared to other cattle enterprises. This risk ranges from volatile prices to risk in production through cattle performance, death loss, etc. This study analyzes price risk in terms of various marketing strategies and its effect on producer solvency. Marketing strategies will be based on preliminary break-evens when the cattle are placed on feed. When the cattle are sold, total profit and/or loss on the cattle will be figured based on actual cattle performance, market prices

and gain or losses from each market strategy. These various strategies used with actual cattle feedyard data can be utilized by feedyard managers, cattle feeders, and educators to analyze different strategies in the reduction of risk and their effects on producer solvency.

**“The Costs of Developing and Delivering an Internet-Based Course in Agricultural Economics”** *Allen F. Wysocki and Dori Comer, University of Florida.*

The number of distance-learning based courses offered in agricultural economics continues to grow as an alternative to traditional classroom-based instruction. One such method for delivering a distance-learning course is the Internet. This poster will highlight the explicit and implicit costs of developing and delivering internet-based courses. An analysis of the change in traditional classroom teaching skills as a result of developing and delivering an internet-based course will be presented.