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# THE COUNCIL ON FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Catalyzing Informed Decisions Through Applied Economics





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## Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics

C-FARE is a non-profit organization that promotes the work of applied economists and serves as a catalyst for incorporating economic thinking into the analysis of food, agricultural, and resource decisions. We serve as a conduit between the academic research community and Washington, DC policy makers and agency personnel, matching expertise to public needs. Incorporated in 1993, C-FARE is based in Washington, DC and is governed by a board of applied economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests. C-FARE is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

### C-FARE's Mission

The mission of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is to enhance the effectiveness of the food, agricultural, resource, and related economic sectors by strengthening the national presence of the agricultural and applied economics profession and its policy-relevant research.

### C-FARE's Goals

C-FARE's Board has adopted a set of goals to serve the needs of the profession.

**GOAL 1** *Advance the role of agricultural and applied economists in identifying and informing research and policy issues.*

**GOAL 2** *Significantly increase the understanding that public, policy-making, and federal program audiences have of the value of food, agricultural, resource, and applied economics information and analysis.*

**GOAL 3** *Maintain and increase resources and opportunities that support agricultural and applied economics research, outreach, and education.*

**GOAL 4** *Foster opportunities that build human capital for a vibrant national workforce equipped with the skills that are necessary to inform private and public economic policy.*

### C-FARE's Core Values

***Collaboration:*** *C-FARE advances the applied economics profession through its continuous development of effective communication pathways that connect the profession to users of food, agricultural, natural resource, and applied economics information and analysis.*

***Excellence:*** *C-FARE distills authoritative economic analysis from the agricultural and applied economics profession into information that communicates effectively with its critical audiences.*

***Integrity:*** *C-FARE is guided by the highest level of objectivity.*

***Innovation:*** *C-FARE identifies and facilitates innovative analyses and engagement.*

***Relevance:*** *C-FARE's actions are timely, proactive, and responsive to critical issues.*

## C-FARE's Volunteer Experts Serve and Support the Agricultural and Applied Economics Profession



### Facilitating Webinars, Seminars, and Briefings on Timely Topics

C-FARE develops webinars, seminars, and briefings. These activities are designed to inform and/or train stakeholders on the application of economics research relevant to current policy issues or legislative initiatives. C-FARE's activities highlight the strengths of economic analysis in multi-disciplinary research and education.



### Monitoring Federal Policymaking Activities

C-FARE monitors and reports on budgets, bills, legislation, rule-making, and initiatives under discussion in the federal policy-making arena. C-FARE also develops public comments that encourage federal policymakers and program managers to incorporate applied economic analyses in program development, policy implementation, and requests for research.



### Engaging Federal Stakeholders and Decision Makers

C-FARE volunteer experts regularly meet with decisionmakers to provide information on the importance of economic research, extension, and education, and the value of many federal data series.



### Nominating Members of the Profession for Policy Advisory Board/Panel Positions

Advisory boards and panels offer opportunities for the profession to broaden its influence. C-FARE seeks to enhance the presence of food, agricultural, and resource economists on key federal advisory boards.



### Providing Information to Students and Young Professionals

C-FARE's intern briefings and informational updates help support the professional growth of the next generation of applied economists. At the briefings, speakers talk about their backgrounds, skills, and academic experience. Experts elaborate on experiences and skills they've found necessary to build a career in the private, public, or non-profit sectors in Washington, DC.

## C-FARE New Board Members and Management Changes

Washington, DC - May 2, 2017 - [The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics](#) welcomes its new directors and appreciates the service of its continuing members. The Council, also known as C-FARE, is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural and applied economics profession. C-FARE has a long history of serving the profession and the nation.

"The C-FARE Board of Directors undertook an important strategic planning process, critical for the ongoing success of the organization and its volunteer experts network. We appreciate the hard work of the outgoing board members. They provided an important foundation for continuity of this organization's mission," says Roger Coupal, Board Chairman. "We have a wonderful group of leaders to take the torch and lead the organization forward. We warmly welcome all of the incoming directors."

The directors provide leadership, governance, and oversight of the organization and its programming. C-FARE promotes the work of applied economists and serves as a catalyst for incorporating economic thinking into the analysis of food, agricultural and resource decisions.

C-FARE's continuing directors include:

- [Roger Coupal, University of Wyoming - Chair](#)
- [Stephan Goetz, Penn State - Vice Chair](#)
- [Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University - Past Chair](#)
- [Daniel Lass, University of Massachusetts - Treasurer](#)
- [C. Parr Rosson III, Texas A&M University](#)

C-FARE's new directors are:

- [Deacue Fields, Auburn University](#)
- [Cathy Roheim, University of Idaho](#)
- [Gal Hochman, Rutgers University](#)
- [Spiro Stefanou, University of Florida](#)
- [John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
- Cynthia Clark, Retired, National Agricultural Statistics Service



"Agricultural and applied economics is not only an interesting discipline, it is also a rewarding discipline to work in because of its role in informing decision makers," says Cathy Roheim, University of Idaho. "As a C-FARE board member, I look forward to facilitating new opportunities for our profession to interact with industry, government, and other disciplines to address the many complex and challenging questions facing society."

During a year-long strategic planning process, C-FARE also established five standing committees to govern its operations. The committees include the:

1. Executive Committee,
2. Finance and Audit Committee,
3. Associate Members and Strategic Partners Committee,
4. Program Committee, and
5. Communications Committee.

C-FARE also welcomed the following new committee members:

- [Jeffrey L Jordan, University of Georgia](#)
- [Neal H. Hooker, The Ohio State University](#)
- [Daniel Solis, Florida A&M University](#)
- [Craig Gundersen, University of Illinois](#)

## Review of C-FARE's 2017 Events

### Annual Farm Economy Update for Congress

#### Pressures on Repayment and Spending – Cooperative Extension Translates Scientific Research to Help Farmers and Ranchers Manage Financial Risk

*February 13, 2017, 1300 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC*

A cooperative extension director and researchers discussed the current condition of the farm economy, approaches for communicating and assisting farmers, and policy research. The agricultural economy has changed dramatically over the last decade, going from a position of high commodity prices and strong net income to a situation of increasing financial stress because increased global production and stagnant demand have led to falling commodity prices. For 2016, net farm income is forecast to be \$71.5 billion, while net cash farm income is expected to drop to \$94.1 billion. Both measures had been forecast to decline for the third consecutive year in 2016, after reaching recent highs in 2012 and 2013. Net farm income is forecast to decline by 11.5 percent in 2016, while net cash farm income is expected to be down 13.3 percent. [i] The weakness of the crop and livestock sectors has forced cash-strapped producers to reduce working capital to meet immediate financial obligations. Farm land values have begun to decline, and rental rates are beginning to decrease. The current condition is causing repayment situations to become more and more tenuous.

#### Speakers:

- [Jason R Henderson, College of Agriculture, Associate Dean and Director of Purdue Extension](#)
- [Allen Featherstone, Department Head and Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University](#)
- [Jeff Hopkins, Chief of the Farm Economy Branch in the Resource and Rural Economics Division at the USDA Economic Research Service](#)

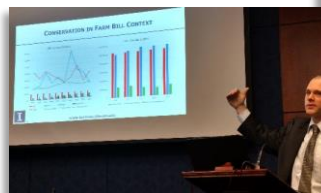


**SPONSORS:** C-FARE, the AAEA, the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research, and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP).

### AAEA - C-FARE Capitol Hill Symposium

#### Water Resources and Policy – Exploring the Risks, Benefits, and Opportunities for Conservation March 20, 2017, Capitol Visitors Center

C-FARE, in conjunction with AAEA, hosted a seminar at the Capitol Visitors Center and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Economic Research Service. The purpose of this workshop was to inform congressional staff, agency staff, and other research analysts about research on water quantity, water quality, and related policy being conducted by agricultural economists and to engage in an interactive dialogue on research needs and priorities for future research useful for policy development. The intended beneficiaries of this exchange were stakeholders affected by farm policy, researchers, and policy-makers. The workshop brought together representatives from academia, research organizations, government agencies, and congressional staff for presentations on and discussions about the current state of science, current knowledge gaps, and policy constraints. To encourage the participation of those outside academia, one member on the organizing committee is from a government agency. The effort resulted in two *Choices Magazine* themes on related issues.



## C-FARE – OCE OEPNU - Agricultural and Rural Energy Economics Symposium American-Made Bioenergy from Field to Refinery – Feedstock Logistics

February 17, 2017 Holeman Lounge, National Press Club

In a continuing partnership with the USDA OCE Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, C-FARE held the fourth event in the Agricultural and Rural Energy Economics Symposium Series. The event convened biofuel feedstock logistics, production, and economic experts from across the nation to talk about supply chain logistics and a vision for the future. The successful expansion of the bioeconomy is limited by the availability of affordable, sustainable, high-performance feedstock. Delivery of this valuable resource starts with production on the farm, where valuable innovations have maximized yield, improved harvest efficiencies, and enhanced biomass quality metrics. Still, the value points along the feedstock supply chain determine the market feasibility of the bioeconomy.

*“The C-FARE event showcased work underway across the nation to address commercial-scale bioenergy feasibility, both the challenges and successes, from producer to processor,”* says Keri Jacobs, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Economics Professor and cooperatives extension economist at Iowa State University. *“At the event, I discussed viable strategies for addressing collection efficiency and pricing to improve the viability of commercial-scale cellulosic biomass for biofuels markets.”*



Introduction - Irene Xiarchos, USDA OCE OEPNU

Biofuel Logistics Overview, Challenges and Opportunities - Bill Goldner, USDA NIFA

Regional Biofuel Feedstock Logistics - Moderated by Bill Goldner, USDA NIFA

- **Logistical Efficiency with Dedicated Energy Crops** - Sam Jackson, Genera
- **Innovations for Industrial Scale Feedstock Supply Systems** - Kevin Comer, Antares Group, Inc.
- **The IBSS Partnership: Supply, Delivery, and Processing of Diverse Regional Biomass** - Tim Rials, University of Tennessee

Optimizing Feedstock Supply, Contracts, Delivery and Demand - Moderated by Irene Xiarchos, USDA OCE OEPNU

- **Advanced Feedstock Supply Systems: Enabling Affordable Access to Distributed Biomass** - Mark Elless, Department of Energy
- **Meeting the Realities of Corn Stover Supply Chain Operation** - John Pieper, DuPont
- **Insights for Improved Participation in the Delivery of Corn Stover to Cellulosic Ethanol Plants** - Keri Jacobs, Iowa State University
- **Farm-level Economics and Profit Opportunities** - Jay Gunderson, Gunderson Farms, Iowa

Options for Effective Policy - Francis Epplin, Oklahoma State University



## AAEA Government Relations

### Transition Letter with Five Principles for Economic Programs

The Trump Administration requested public comment regarding reorganization of USDA. In preparing for the new Administration, AAEA composed a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture and other Congressional leaders. The AAEA leaders stated that it is their perspective that economic programs within the USDA should be guided by the following five principles:

1. Provide accurate, timely, and precise information on the state of the food and agricultural economy to improve the decision making of farmers, consumers, agribusinesses, and policy makers.
2. Uphold and respect statistical directives and privacy laws; maintain the independence of principal statistical agencies from policy-advising units within government.
3. Conduct applied and fundamental research to better understand the drivers of the health of the U.S. population, the robust nature of the U.S. food and fiber system, and the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.
4. Ensure that policy makers have timely and thorough analysis to ensure evidence-based policy that results in high quality, up-to-date evaluation of policies and programs.
5. Increase the quality and quantity of economic and social science research conducted by the USDA.

The letter also celebrated the recent publication of the [Agricultural and Applied Economics Priorities and Solutions Project](#). You may view the letter [here](#). The letter was crafted by the AAEA Presidents for the AAEA Government Relations Program, which coordinates with the [Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics](#).

### Dr. Jill McCluskey Named to NAS Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources

*November 17, 2017*

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has announced that AAEA Past President Dr. Jill McCluskey has been named to the [Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources](#).

The Board is a major program for the Academy and members are responsible for overseeing studies on agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and the use of natural resources.

“Public investment in scientific research is imperative,” McCluskey says. “Input from a diverse group of experts on the Board can identify frontiers of science and emerging issues that impact these investments.”



### NIFA Listens: Public Comment

The [Agricultural & Applied Economics Association \(AAEA\)](#) appreciated the opportunity to provide comment on the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) Listens](#) request for input. The AAEA stated that its members highly value the support for economic research, education, extension, and analysis that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides to the food and agricultural sector. It is a critical time for the development of this sector, as the sector embarks on important visionary activities and the USDA develops a new action plan for the research, education, and economics (REE) mission area. As these activities unfold, we want to emphasize the value of social science research; point out the strength of the current USDA economic research, education, and extension programs; and highlight principles for continued success in economic research to serve the U.S. agricultural, food, and resource sectors and the public good. The letter also emphasized the principles stated in the transition letter to the Trump Administration above, the Priorities and Solutions Report, and the report, [The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities](#), which was released by the National Academies. Please view the full letter [here](#).

## The Agricultural and Applied Economics Priorities Project Report Release Tackling the Challenges of Innovative Trade and Maintaining Robust Markets, Capitalizing on Big Data, and Advancing Consumer Health

The Priorities and Solutions Project was a one year project facilitated by the [Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics \(C-FARE\)](#) in partnership with the [Agricultural and Applied Economics Association \(AAEA\)](#). The resulting [Agricultural and Applied Economics Priorities and Solutions Report](#) describes research priorities for the agricultural and applied economics profession.



### Report Impact

- ✓ **Transition Information for the Trump Administration:** The AAEA Executive Committee, including Past President, Jayson Lusk, Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, used the report to highlight the role of the profession in a [transition letter](#) that was sent to the Dr. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture for the Trump Administration.
- ✓ **Inform the 2018 Farm Bill Development Process:** The Priorities and Solutions Report was used to highlight the importance of agricultural and applied economics to members of both chambers of Congress who serve on the Agriculture Committees in advance of farm bill drafting.
- ✓ **Advise Cutting-edge Agricultural, Rural, and Food Research Priority Setting at the National Academies:** C-FARE Executive Director, Caron Gala, provided the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee with the report at [Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research](#), emphasizing big data and statistics as key resources for future analysis.
- ✓ **Provide Public Comment on the Research, Economics, Education and Extension Portfolio of USDA:** The report was included in the [response](#) to the United States Department of Agriculture's NIFA Listens effort.
- ✓ **Discuss the Profession with Members of Congress and their Staff:** At [the 2017 Agricultural and Applied Economics Congressional Visits Day](#) (CVD), participants discussed the Priorities and Solutions Report with Congressional Members and staff.\*

\*The CVD is made possible by the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA), Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), and Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA), as well as by individual sponsors.

## Report Release at the National Press Club in Washington, DC

**April 6, 2017 Holeman Lounge, National Press Club**

The event release highlighted the role of economics in addressing industry challenges, trade, markets, big data, and consumer preferences. A link to all the presentations at the event is located [here](#).

### Agricultural and Applied Economics Priorities and Solutions Project

- [Jill McCluskey](#), Past AAEA President, Distinguished Professor of Sustainability in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University
- [Mary Bohman](#), Administrator of the USDA Economic Research Service

### Cultivating Economic Development and Trade Policy for Economic Stability, Growth, and Equality

*Moderator: William Powers, Chief Economist at U.S. International Trade Commission*

- [Gopinath Munisamy](#), Director of the Market and Trade Economics Division of USDA's Economic Research Service
- [Luis A. Ribera](#), Associate Professor and Director, Center for North American Studies, Texas A&M University
- [Will Martin](#), Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute and President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists

### Farmer's Questions about Trade Optimization

- **Dale Moore**, Executive Director, Public Policy, American Farm Bureau Federation

**Keynote:** [Kip Tom](#), Chairman of TomFarms in Leesburg, Indiana will speak about Farm Innovation, Big Data Management and Profitability

- **Moderator:** **Constance Cullman**, President & CEO at Farm Foundation, NFP
- **Discussant:** [Warren Preston](#), Deputy Chief Economist of the USDA



### Big Data for Advances in Agricultural Production, Food Supply, and Meeting Consumer Demands

*Moderator: Scott Swinton, Incoming AAEA President, Professor of Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Associate Chairperson of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University*

- [Keith Coble](#), A.W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics and Department Head at Mississippi State University
- [Linda Young](#), Chief Mathematical Statistician and Director of National Agricultural Statistics Service Research and Development Division
- [Stacy Sneeringer](#), Economist in the Structure, Technology, and Productivity Branch of the Resource and Rural Economics Division of USDA's Economic Research Service

### Understanding Consumer Preferences to Enhance Well-being and Food Security

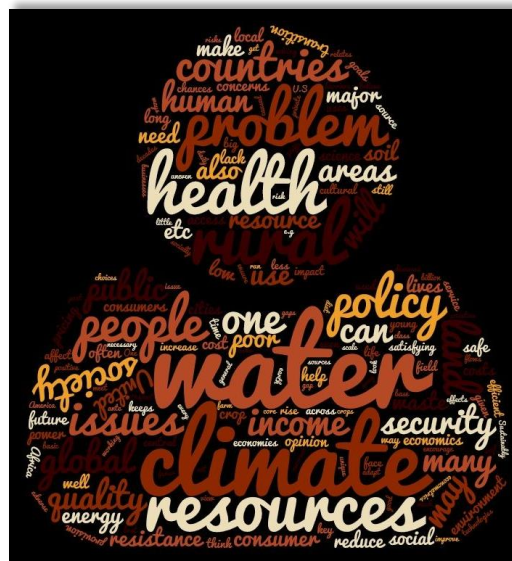
*Moderator: Jill McCluskey, Past AAEA President, Distinguished Professor of Sustainability in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University*

- [Craig Gundersen](#), Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- [David Just](#), Professor at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University
- [Jayson Lusk](#), President of the AAEA, Regents Professor and Willard Sparks Endowed Chair in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University

## Organizational Structure

- Project Chair: [Jill McCluskey, AAEA President, Washington State University](#)
- Project Director: [Gene Nelson, Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University](#)
- Steering Committee:
  - [Mike Adjemian, USDA Economic Research Service](#)
  - [Mary Ahearn, USDA Economic Research Service](#) (Retired)
  - Walt Armbruster, Farm Foundation (Retired)
  - [Titus Awokuse, Michigan State University](#)
  - [Joshua Berning, University of Georgia](#)
  - [Susan Capalbo, Oregon State University](#)
  - [Roger Coupal, University of Wyoming](#)
  - [Tim Dalton, Kansas State University](#)
  - [Ken Foster, Purdue University](#)
  - [Craig Gundersen, University of Illinois](#)
  - [Neal Hooker, Ohio State University](#)
  - [Leif Jensen, Pennsylvania State University](#)
  - [Eluned Jones, South Dakota State University](#)
  - [David Just, Cornell University](#)
  - [Nigel Key, USDA Economic Research Service](#)
  - [Dan Lass, University of Massachusetts](#)
  - [Jayson Lusk, Oklahoma State University](#)
  - [Kent Messer, University of Delaware](#)
  - [Kimberly Morgan, Virginia Tech University](#)
  - [Abby Okrent, USDA Economic Research Service](#)
  - [Marco Palma, Texas A&M University](#)
  - [Norbert Wilson, Auburn University](#)

Project Manager: Caron Gala, Executive Director, C-FARE



## C-FARE and USDA Economists Group Webinars and Breakfast Briefings

### Current Trends in U.S. Farm Income, Farm Income Volatility, and Farmland Values: What's the Story? April 12, 2017

The panel shared their increasing concerns about the financial health of American farms, as the farm sector's net cash income declined by 35 percent between 2013 and 2016. Further clouding the picture, they noted that net cash income at the individual farm level can vary more than at the sector level. In addition, farm real estate values likewise reached record highs in 2013, driven by high commodity prices and low interest rates, but then the rate of increase began to slow and, in some regions, decline.

- Moderator: [Christopher Burns, Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service](#)
- [Kevin Patrick, Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service](#)
- [Daniel Prager, Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service](#)
- [Wendong Zhang, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Iowa State University](#)

## Economic and Decision Barriers to Soil Health Practice Adoption: A Role for Public Policy? June 27, 2017

The U.S. Department of Agriculture aims to increase soil health by providing information about soil health management practices and systems of practices that will build soil health: the capacity of the soil to function as a vital living ecosystem to sustain life. Producers are responding positively, but economic barriers remain to adopting soil health management systems. For example, in the Southeast United States, a longer growing season, high humidity and rainfall, and diverse cropping systems have brought about concerns about implementing conservation systems to increase soil health. Presentations reviewed the current rates of adoption of soil health promoting practices, provided an overview of associated public and private costs and benefits, and discussed U.S. conservation programs designed to encourage adoption.

- Moderator: [David Lamm, National Soil Health Team Leader, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service](#)
- [Maria Bowman, Research Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service](#) - Soil health practices in the United States: an overview of incentives for and potential barriers to adoption
- [Leah Duzy, Agricultural Economist, National Soil Dynamics Laboratory, USDA Agricultural Research Service](#) - Addressing the barriers to conservation systems adoption through research
- [Bryon Kirwan, State Economist, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) - Economic hurdles and opportunities: Considerations for producers and researchers alike

## Agricultural and Applied Economics 2017 Summer Intern Breakfast Briefings

The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) invited students with an interest in agricultural and applied economics who were interning in Washington, DC this summer to participate in the 2017 Agricultural and Applied Economics Breakfast Briefings. The briefing series focused on how to navigate careers working for Congress, U.S. agencies, industry, and non-governmental organizations. Participants also received insights on what it takes to succeed in Washington, DC.

- Monday, June 5 - *Career Insights from USDA Economists*
- Friday, June 9 - *The Economic Experience on the Hill*
- Friday, June 23 - *Opportunities in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics*
- Thursday, July 20 - *Field Highlights from Experts in Industry*

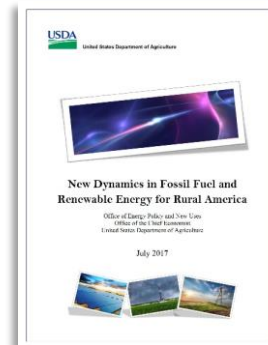
Thank you to all the students who participated! We had over 150 interns register for the events and many events included more than fifty students.



## Reports and Publications

### New Dynamic in Fossil Fuel and Renewable Energy for Rural America July 2017

Inspired by a series put together by the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, Office of the Chief Economist, USDA in coordination with the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, these authors discuss the multi-level regulatory context in which fossil and renewable energy occur. Growth in the rural energy sector has taken place as a dual boom in the expansion of renewable power installations and the extraction of natural gas and oil from shale plays through hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. Authors discuss the multi-level regulatory context in which these two forms of energy development occur and review how they affect local communities, environment, and infrastructure, as well as government income and spending. The authors found that long-term employment effects are relatively low for both forms of development, but unconventional fossil energy development has a heightened boom/bust potential with a large influx of workers spending a short amount of time on each well before moving on. Renewable power plants, on the other hand, can offer a steadier stream of income and tax revenue. Renewable power plants also have longer lasting visual impacts but lower environmental risks than unconventional fossil energy development. Finally, the authors considered how communities adapt to navigate legacy and infrastructure constraints that accompany the shift from fossil to renewable power generation and from conventional to shale oil and gas resources. Find the full report [here](#).

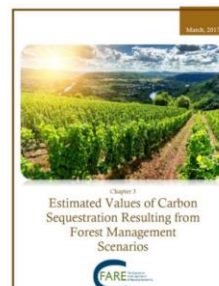
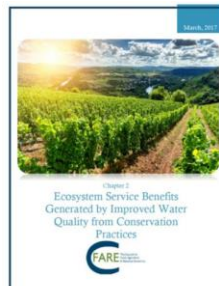
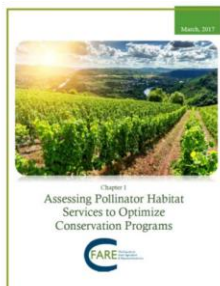
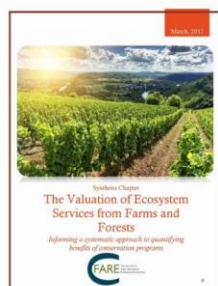


### The Valuation of Ecosystem Services Available from Farms and Forests: A Valuation Framework Based on the Best Available Science March 2017

The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics and the USDA Office of the Chief Economist Office of Environmental Markets partnered to develop a conceptual framework for valuing ecosystem service benefits from U.S. farms and forests. The report chapters are on C-FARE's website – [cfare.org](http://cfare.org). Using a conceptual value framework and the best available science, the project engaged three interdisciplinary teams with experience working on issues of water quality, forests and carbon sequestration, and pollinator habitat for the purpose of developing reliable and consistent approaches for assessing monetary and non-monetary benefits of national conservation programs.

*"The study found that the science available for measuring the benefits of conservation programs is improving. More types of ecosystem services can be valued with available information,"* said Lisa A. Wainger, project co-chair and research professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. *"However, the benefits that can be captured in monetary units will always be a subset of the full suite of benefits. The values that are often missed include many intangible values generated by improving the environment, such as promoting the health and well-being of future generations."*

*"We can do systematic valuation of ecosystem service benefits based on the best available science while enlarging the domain of values assessed and advancing precision. Accounting for the values of important ecosystem service benefits from USDA conservation programs is not only good science, but it can advance decision-making,"* stated David E. Ervin, project co-chair and professor emeritus of economics and environmental management, senior fellow, Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Portland State University.



## Congressional Visits Days

### Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association June 12–13

The [Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association \(NAREA\)](#) Annual Meeting was held in Washington, DC. Some of the members partook in our Agricultural and Applied Economics Congressional Visits Day. We aimed to bring agricultural and applied economics professionals and executives to Washington, DC to meet with their congressional delegations to raise awareness about the importance of agricultural and applied economics analysis, research, and related statistical resources. The purpose of these meetings was to simply explain to the member or their staff what agricultural and applied economics is and what research areas it includes.



### National Association of Agricultural Administrators (NAAEA) Biennial Agricultural and Applied Congressional Visits Day– September 13–14

Agricultural and applied economics research and information underpin not only the capacity of the American agricultural and resource enterprises but also the vitality of economies and communities world-wide. The ***Agricultural and Applied Economics Congressional Visits Day (CVD)*** is a one and a half-day biennial event that brings agricultural and applied economics professionals and executives to Washington, DC to raise awareness about the importance of agricultural and applied economics analysis, research, and related statistical resources.

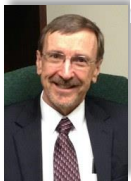
The Congressional Visits Day Program allows agricultural and applied economics experts to provide a valuable service to the profession. Discussions that take place in DC at CVD highlight the role of agricultural economics in the U.S. agricultural, food, and resource research, education, and extension. During the CVD, members of the profession can meet with members of Congress or their congressional staff to describe the work taking place in their departments or personal research portfolio. The effort is a relationship-building exercise that helps to connect the policymaker to on-the-ground economic research. At the 2017 visits day, participants discussed the [Agricultural and Applied Economics Priorities and Solutions Report](#) with congressional members and staff.



*CVD is made possible by the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA), the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA), as well as individual sponsors.*

# C-FARE Twitter and YouTube Activity

C-FARE regularly posts economic research, business, and other resources on Twitter. All our webinars are on YouTube. View some of our most popular tweets from 2017 below.



**C-FARE @C\_FARE\_DC**  
**@AAEA\_Economics #AgEconMatters**  
 Another great slide from Dr. Stephan Goetz on the distribution of mental health facilities across U.S. counties. **#ASSA2018**  
[pic.twitter.com/wPr4RXNfLq](https://pic.twitter.com/wPr4RXNfLq)

**C-FARE @C\_FARE\_DC**  
**#AgEconMatters @AAEA\_Economics** Submit your comments to USDA NIFA over Thanksgiving break to emphasize the importance of ag. and applied econ! NIFA will use the input to identify gaps in programming. **#AgEconPrioritiesandSolutions**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q6HDGC3>



**C-FARE @C\_FARE\_DC**  
**Dr. Deacue Fields Named Next Dean of U of A's Bumpers College | University of Arkansas** <https://shar.es/1M43UL>  
**@C\_FARE\_DC** is proud to have Dr. Fields as one of our prestigious board members! Congratulations!

**#NP @SpacePlowboy** discussing "Connectivity and Data Utilization"  
[bit.ly/2fWUloa](https://bit.ly/2fWUloa) **#BigAgData #Bigdata #ageconomics #RuralDevelopment**  
[pic.twitter.com/6r32EHvxOR](https://pic.twitter.com/6r32EHvxOR)

**FFAR @FoundationFAR - 4 Dec 2017**  
 FFAR Awards \$50,000 Grant to **@animalag** & **@FMI\_ORG** Foundation to study Consumer Understanding & Willingness-to-Pay for Production Practices in Animal Agriculture [bit.ly/poultrypractic...](https://bit.ly/poultrypractic...) Congratulations to PI **@JaysonLusk**, **@PurdueAg!** **#ProteinCE17**



**C-FARE @C\_FARE\_DC**  
**@AAEA\_Economics** Past President, Dr. Jayson Lusk, talks about **@FoundationFAR** award to study consumer willingness-to-pay for alternative production practices in animal agriculture. **@C\_FARE\_DC #AgEconMatters @JaysonLusk** [pic.twitter.com/MJSFb3BFbB](https://pic.twitter.com/MJSFb3BFbB)

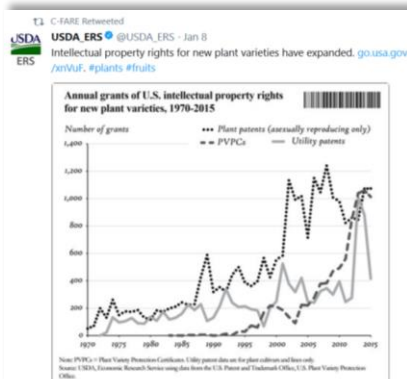
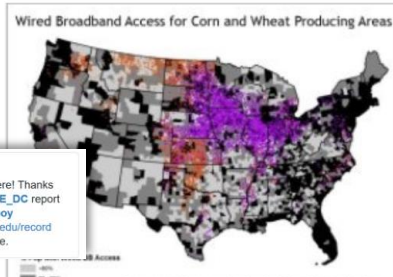


**Jayson Lusk**  
 @JaysonLusk · Aug 8

Helen Jensen introducing our **@NASEM\_Ag** panel on Breakthroughs 2030  
**@AAEA\_Economics @C\_FARE\_DC**  
[pic.twitter.com/IEwApcZuqa](https://pic.twitter.com/IEwApcZuqa)



**C-FARE @C\_FARE\_DC**  
**@OhioStatePA @fultojp** We wish we could be there! Thanks for the preview! Dr. Fulton co-authored a **@C\_FARE\_DC** report on Big Ag Data! **@DrKeithHCoble @SpacePlowboy @mahearn54 @fultojp** <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/249847> We continue to work on this complex issue.



## Science Breakthroughs 2030

A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research

[nas.edu/breakthroughs](https://nas.edu/breakthroughs)

**#ScienceBreakthroughs**

**@NASEM\_Ag**  
**@NASEM\_Ag**

The National Academies of  
 SCIENCES  
 ENGINEERING  
 MEDICINE

## C-FARE Board Restructure

The C-FARE Board of Directors has engaged two expert consultants, the volunteer community, and leaders of key institutions. The goal of these discussions was to create a governance structure that engaged the community and would have long-term institutional success. In December 2016, the C-FARE board voted to institute a new governance structure, commencing in 2017. As a result, the C-FARE Board of Directors, from March 2017 forward, will contain eleven voting members. The board will have one executive committee and four standing committees. The full structure is as follows:

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee consists of the past chair, chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary. This committee provides guidance, oversight, and support to ensure high-quality operations of the board, including all actions committed on behalf of the board by members and committees. The committee ascertains that the entire board receives highly qualified and motivated new members, participates in the training of those members, organizes and activates committees, and ensures high quality board meetings.

**Finance and Audit:** The Finance and Audit Committee is chaired by the treasurer, another board member serves as a vice-chair, and the past chair of the board also serves on the committee. This standing committee has the following responsibilities:

- Establish annual budgets and targets for fundraising;
- Review annual audits on behalf of the board;
- Review and report to the board on quarterly and annual financial results; and
- Provide risk analysis and contingency planning.

**Associate Members and Strategic Partners Committee:** The committee advises C-FARE on topics, issues, and opportunities for informal educational programming to promote the work of the agricultural and applied economics profession. This committee's main activity is to reach out to current stakeholders to coordinate input for C-FARE's annual program planning.

**Program Committee:** The Program Committee membership includes diverse expertise and a range of early career to experienced professionals. It has the following responsibilities:

- Identify programs in accordance with the budget for the annual work plan.
- Consider input from the Associate Members and Strategic Partners Committee, and other organizations and individuals as appropriate or necessary.

**Communications Committee:** The objective of the Communications Committee is to build and enhance communication between the C-FARE board of directors, potential new strategic partners, and the agricultural and applied economics community in general. This includes outreach and C-FARE membership recruitment of departments, regional associations, and other national applied economics associations. The committee is tasked with developing valuable communication approaches to keep volunteers connected with C-FARE. Annually, C-FARE Staff will work with the committee to develop an external communications plan. The plan will be reviewed by the board and implemented by C-FARE staff during the calendar year.

## C-FARE's 2017 Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors for supporting C-FARE's operations and programs.



The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Trust is the non-profit fundraising arm of AAEA. The Trust supports the work of agricultural and applied economists by funding programs and initiatives designed to advance the profession.  
<http://www.aaea.org/trust>



CHS Foundation is the major giving entity of CHS, an energy, grains and foods company.  
<http://www.chsinc.com/>



The Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ERS conducts a research program to inform public and private decision making on economic and policy issues involving food, farming, natural resources, and rural development.  
<https://www.ers.usda.gov>



The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics and information in service to U.S. agriculture.  
<https://www.nass.usda.gov>



The purposes and objectives of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association is to foster the study and understanding of agricultural economics and its applications to problems in the Southern United States; to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with those problems; to promote improvement in the professional competence and standards of members; to cooperate with other organizations and institutions engaged in similar or related activities; and to increase the contribution of agricultural economics to human welfare.  
<http://www.saea.org/>



The mission of the NAAEA is to improve the leadership and management of agricultural economics programs; to support the acquisition of resources to carry out agricultural economics research, teaching, and extension programs; and to address common needs and concerns of agricultural economics administrators. Membership in the NAAEA includes individuals who administer departments or units in academia, public agencies and foundations offering and supporting agricultural economics, resource economics, agribusiness management and similar research, teaching, and/or extension programs.

<https://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/naaea>

