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# THE COUNCIL ON FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS 2016 MID-YEAR REPORT

Catalyzing Informed Decisions Through Applied Economics





## About the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics

C-FARE is a non-profit organization which 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 through a stronger 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. These goals guide C-FARE's daily actions and activities to achieve its Mission.

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 necessary for informing private and public economic decisions.

### 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 effectively communicates to 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 actions are timely, proactive, and responsive to critical issues in the economic and policy environment, leading to impactful public policy outcomes.

## C-FARE Performs Many Functions to Serve and Support the Applied Economics Profession



### Facilitates 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 relevant to current policy issues or legislative initiatives. C-FARE's activities highlight the strengths of economic analysis in multi-disciplinary research and education.



### Monitors Federal Policy-making 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 policy makers and program managers to incorporate applied economic analyses in program development, policy implementation and requests for research.



### Engages Federal Stakeholders and Decision Makers

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



### Nominates 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.



### Provides 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.

## Dynamics of Farm Profitability: Factors Influencing the Decline in Farm Income

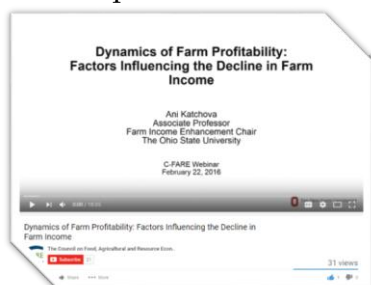
**Moderator: Caron Gala, C-FARE Executive Director**

- ❖ **Jeffrey Hopkins**, Farm Economy Branch Chief in the Resource and Rural Economics Division (RRED) at the USDA Economic Research Service
- ❖ **Allen Featherstone**, Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University and Director of Master in Agribusiness Program
- ❖ **Ani Katchova**, Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics and Farm Income Enhancement Chair in The Ohio State University

### Sponsors

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Economics  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association

**IMPACT:** Reached over 60 staffers, 1 member of congress, and 50 online viewers. Allen Featherstone was invited to testify before the House Agriculture Committee on the topic of farm income.



*Speakers did a post-event webinar for the public across the nation.*



*Photo: 1 Chairman Roberts (R-KS), Allen Featherstone, and Ani Katchova talking about farm income.*

## Creating the Future Workforce in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources

Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Workshop  
February 10, 2016

Representatives:

**Ani Katchova**, Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics and Farm Income Enhancement Chair in The Ohio State University

**Clare Narrod**, Risk Analysis Program Manager/Impact Evaluation Project Lead  
Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

**Caron Gala**, C-FARE Executive Director

The workshop focused on how to develop a sustainable pipeline of analytical experts for the agricultural, food, and natural resource workforce.

## Climate Change and Agriculture: Revisiting the Evidence and Potential Solutions

Sunday, February 14, 2016

**Moderator: Jan Lewandrowski, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

- ❖ [The Underlying Climate Mechanisms of International Food Trade](#) – Thomas Hertel, Purdue University
- ❖ [Elaborations on Climate Adaptation in U.S. Agriculture](#) – Bruce McCarl, Texas A&M University
- ❖ [Climate Change Mitigation and U.S. Agriculture: Promises, Preemption, and Pathways](#) – Alison Eagle, Duke University



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**IMPACT:** This was the first time that C-FARE or AAEE had a designated program specifically on agricultural and applied economics at the AAAS meetings.



## U.S.-Cuba Agricultural Trade: Economic Policy Implications of a Changing Trade Environment

**Moderator: Zhulieta Z. Willbrand, Central and South America Team Leader at USDA Foreign Agricultural Service**

- ❖ **Bryce Cooke**, Economist at the USDA Economic Research Service
- ❖ **William A. Messina, Jr.**, Agricultural Economist, University of Florida/IFAS, Food and Resource Economics Department
- ❖ **Luis A. Ribera**, Associate Professor and Extension Economist for Texas A&M University

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National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
USDA Economists Group

**IMPACT:** Reached over 100 staff, DC agency experts, and media. The Hagstrom Report had an article on the webinar. William and Luis engaged congressional staff on the topic of trade.



*William, Bryce, Callie McAdams, and Luis after the briefing.*



*William speaking to congressional staff during Q&A.*

## Jon Brandt Public Policy Forum 2016

### Reaping Returns from U.S. Investment in International Agricultural Development

The event highlighted state-of-the art knowledge of market development, policy, and research innovation investments in international agricultural development. Panelists described how broad-based economic growth in low-income countries can alleviate poverty, improve food security, and increase capacity for international trade. Speakers reviewed the domestic and international impacts of research and development partnerships forged between USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, public universities, and the private sector.

**Opening Comments – [Alan Bjerga, Bloomberg](#)**

- ❖ **Investing in Innovation to Raise Agricultural Productivity in Developing Countries – [Keith Fuglie, USDA Economic Research Service](#)**
- ❖ **U.S. Investments in Innovation: What are the Impacts Around the World? – [Timothy J. Dalton, Kansas State University](#)**
- ❖ **Economic Pathways Out of Food Insecurity: Options for Market and Policy Development – [Titus Awokuse, Michigan State University](#)**
- ❖ **USAID Feed the Future Program Markets and Policy Research – Robert Bertram, Chief Scientist in USAID's Bureau for Food Security**

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**IMPACT:** Over 90 congressional staff attended the event. Speakers met with the Chairman of the Senate.



## The Economics of Managing Drought: Policy Evaluation and Water Markets

Researchers conveyed findings on the trade-offs of policies that emphasize the supply and demand sides of water allocation and use, as well as those that promote adaptation and consider consumer behaviors. Research-based ideas were presented about how to manage the application of new technologies to adapt to long-term and persistent drought. The speakers presented on the work that Land-Grant Universities and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have collaborated on through various programs, forecasting, and monitoring efforts.

**Opening Remarks:** Robert Johansson, USDA Chief Economist

- ❖ [Steven Wallander](#), Economist at the USDA Economic Research Service
- ❖ [Ariel Dinar](#), Resource Economist, University of California, Riverside

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USDA Economists Group

**IMPACT:** Reached over 100 staff, DC agency experts, and media. Ariel met with staff from his entire California delegation as well as Representative Ken Calvert. There was significant interest in Ariel's webinar and slides.



*Ariel Dinar speaking to congressional staff at the briefing.*

## Agricultural Statistics Board Lockup

As part of the Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis, which includes friends of agricultural economics research, C-FARE invites congressional staff to join the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) for "Lockup". During this process, the ASB prepares and disseminates hundreds of reports every year that provide the official USDA estimates on crops, livestock, and economic indicators for the agricultural industry. These market-sensitive reports are compiled and issued under special security conditions, or Lockup.

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Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis

**IMPACT:** Participating in this important process helps members of the public understand the process of developing the information for agricultural industry and the sensitivities that surround it.



[C-FARE's YouTube Channel](#)



## Agricultural and Applied Economics Priorities and Solutions Workshop



This workshop will be the centerpiece of a strategic-visioning project to identify the agricultural and applied economics priorities for solving global challenges. The workshop participants from academia, government, NGOs, and industry will represent their colleagues in developing a consensus regarding the most important research questions, educational approaches, and anticipated outcomes.

The objectives of this project are to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Identify overarching priorities for agricultural and applied economics research and education to address society's challenges over the next decade.
- ❖ Promote communication among agricultural and applied economists about the priorities for developing new research projects, research methods, and curricula to meet the future needs of society.
- ❖ Communicate to policy makers in Congress and federal agencies about the key needs and priorities for research and education in agriculture and applied economics.
- ❖ Influence the availability of funding for the identified priorities of research and education.
- ❖ Articulate the unique role of agricultural and applied economists in working with other disciplines to respond to the challenges facing society.
- ❖ Identify the educational needs for future agricultural and applied economists and develop new and innovative curricula to meet those needs.

### Priorities and Solutions Webinar Series

- ❖ [James Vercammen: We have the Econometric Tools but Where is the Data?](#)
- ❖ [Keith Coble: Agricultural Production and Policy](#)
- ❖ [Jayson L. Lusk: Consumer and Food Issues](#)
- ❖ [Madhu Khanna: Water, Land, Ecosystems, & Environmental Policy: Research Priorities and Challenge](#)
- ❖ [Will Martin: Agricultural Development: An International Perspective](#)
- ❖ [Mike D. Woods: Rural Community Development: Regional Issues and Quality of Life](#)



## C-FARE Capacity Building Project

In 2016, the C-FARE Board of Directors has undertaken a business plan and board development activity. The project is part of a capacity-building strategy where C-FARE will aim to create a stable financial model with community-based engagement strategies.

- ❖ Short-term Goals (3–5 yrs)
- ❖ Long-term Goals
- ❖ Development of Funding Support
- ❖ Communication and Marketing Actions
- ❖ Program Performance Measures
- ❖ Definition of Roles
- ❖ Implementation Plan



## Fall Events Calendar

- ❖ Bioeconomy Conference
- ❖ Continuing Education project
- ❖ Priorities solutions press conference
- ❖ Big Data Report Release and meetings
- ❖ Energy Symposia event
- ❖ C-FARE Board Meeting
- ❖ USDA Economist Webinars
- ❖ Ecosystems Services Project
- ❖ Fundraising



## 2016 C-FARE Board of Directors

C-FARE's governing board includes applied economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests. We appreciate their time and expertise. These members also provide their own travel expenses to our board meetings and we appreciate their leadership and support on behalf of the profession.

### 2016 Board Members

Roger Coupal  
Chair  
[University of Wyoming](#)

Mary Ahearn  
Vice-Chair  
[ERS](#) emeritus

Steven Kraft  
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### Contact

502 C Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-408-8522 (phone)  
202-408-5385 (fax)  
[www.cfare.org](http://www.cfare.org)

## C-FARE's 2016 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. [www.chsfoundation.org](http://www.chsfoundation.org)



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. <http://www.ers.usda.gov>



The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics and information in service to U.S. agriculture.



The purposes and objectives of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association shall be 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. [www.saea.org](http://www.saea.org)

## Agricultural and Applied Economics Departments

