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# Selected Posters

## SAEA 2009, Annual Meeting

### **Understanding Direct Markets: Characteristics of the Farmers' Market Consumer**

*Allison L. Vetter and Ronald L. Rainey, University of Arkansas*

Survey results of consumers who shop at farmers' markets are presented. A convenience sample of shoppers in four metropolitan areas in Arkansas is used to identify characteristics of consumers who frequent farmers' markets as well as what factors influence their choice of the farmers' market over other venues.

### **Estimating GDP at the County Level: An Evaluation of Alternative Approaches**

*John D. Barreca and J. Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University*

We compare alternative methodologies for estimating Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for counties. In particular, we evaluate the trade-offs between using an earnings approach, a labor productivity approach, and a contiguous earnings approach. Results will assist rural stakeholders who have lacked historical estimates for value-added at the county level.

### **Evaluating the Relative Performance of Alternative Local Government Revenue and Expenditure Estimators of Community Policy Analysis Models**

*Arun Adhikari and J. Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University*

The objective of this poster is to assess and measure the relative performance of alternative local government revenue and expenditures in Community Policy Analysis Models (COMPAS). This study aims to develop a model to forecast local government revenues and expenditures using alternative procedures that are capable of

increasing the performance over existing COMPAS estimators.

### **How Big is the Number and Why Should We Care? An Evaluation of Methods Used to Measure the Economic Impacts to the Food and Fiber Sector from the 2008 Hurricane Season**

*Kurt M. Guidry, Rex Caffey, and J. Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University*

The purpose of this poster is to evaluate alternative methods of measuring economic impacts to Louisiana agriculture from the 2008 hurricane season. This poster evaluates alternative measures of size and scope and how these approaches influence state and federal policy following a disaster.

### **Effect of Biofuel Expansion on Commodity and Food Prices**

*Tomas Hasing, Samuel Zapata, and Carlos E. Carpio, Clemson University*

This study summarizes and analyzes the economic literature assessing the effect of biofuels on agricultural and commodity prices. Prices of commodities directly related to biofuel production have been the most affected by the increase in demand for biofuels. However, biofuels contribution to the increase in general food prices has been relatively small compared to other factors.

### **Will Biomass Markets Affect Arkansas Crop and Livestock Agriculture? Some Preliminary Numbers**

*Lanier Nalley, Michael Popp, and Gina Vickery, University of Arkansas*

With biomass production increasingly inevitable, decision tools to determine supply are needed. A spreadsheet-based, county level model of Arkansas agriculture estimates spatial biomass supply functions by allowing for low-input,

perennial switchgrass and annually-planted forage sorghum, a more input-intensive but higher-yielding crop to compete for traditional crop, hay and pastureland.

**Energy Requirements of Poultry Operations: Potential Use of Poultry Litter** *Ernie Bazen, Kim Jensen, Burt English, Roland Roberts, and Jamey Menard, The University of Tennessee*

Energy costs comprise a significant cost to poultry producers. Rapid increases in fuel costs highlight the need for investigation of poultry house energy requirements and alternative energy sources. This study measures Tennessee's poultry litter production and willingness of poultry producers to supply litter as energy systems feedstock.

**Structural Changes in U.S. Cotton Supply Relationships** *Donna Mitchell and John R.C. Robinson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M University*

This poster is part of a larger project involving spatial equilibrium modeling of U.S. cotton supply/demand flows. The United States is the third-largest producer of cotton in the world and, in recent years, has produced about 20 percent of the world's annual supply. This poster represents results from (1) econometric estimates of regional supply functions of U.S. cotton, (2) test results for structural changes in the U.S. cotton supply relationships, and (3) comparisons to more commonly used elasticities used for policy analysis, e.g., by FAPRI, aggregate supply/demand estimates.

**Understanding the Fresh Produce Shopping Habits of College Educated Millennials** *Ben Clark, Tyler Mark, and Joshua Detre, Louisiana State University*

This research uses survey data to analyze the factors that influence the fresh produce shopping habits of the "Millennials" as they relate to farmer's markets. Evidence from this study suggests college educated "Millennials" value fresh produce from a farmer's market as part of

their diet, but the factors influencing their purchase decisions are quite varied.

**Ethanol Production, Energy Policy, and its Effects on Rural Economies in Alabama** *Kenisha Reynolds and Ellene Kebede, Tuskegee University*

Ethanol production in the United States is corn-based, and considered to generate employment and income in the rural economies. This paper assessed the potential impact of ethanol production on the rural economies in Alabama. USDA/NASS crop data was obtained and regression analysis used to estimate corn supply equation. The result indicated that corn is price inelastic but sensitive to change in yield. The research concludes with the current price and technology ethanol production will not have a significant benefit rural Alabama.

**The Impact of Agriculture on the Arkansas Economy** *Jennie Popp, Nathan Kemper, and Wayne Miller, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service*

Agriculture is responsible for 18% of jobs, 16% of labor income, and 18% of value added in Arkansas. Much of the impacts accrue to Wholesale/Retail Trade, and Health/Social Services. Continued strength of agriculture is important if the essential infrastructure and services that translate into an acceptable quality of life for Arkansas residents are to be maintained.

**Kentucky Consumers' Acceptance of Sweet Potato Products** *Emine Bayar, Timothy A. Woods, Wuyang Hu, and Leigh J. Maynard, University of Kentucky*

Consumer interest in selected sweet potato products is analyzed using an ordered logit model. The results suggest that farmers and food entrepreneurs would benefit from a targeted marketing strategy for different demographics. There appear to be further niche and innovative value-added products can alter the conventional image of sweet potatoes as primarily a holiday novelty.

**Wind Energy as an Alternate to Natural Gas Driven Irrigation** *Bridget L. Guerrero, Stephen H. Amosson, Thomas H. Marek, and L. Leon New, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Amarillo, Texas*

High natural gas prices affect agricultural producers. Economic feasibility of wind powered hybrid systems versus natural gas driven irrigation is evaluated. Breakeven points indicate cost effective prices to convert from natural gas to electric or electric/wind hybrid systems. Results indicate electricity is the optimal alternative energy for irrigation purposes.

**Evaluating Alternative Irrigation Systems and Water Pricing in Rio Red Grapefruit Production in the Lower Rio Grande Valley** *A. Mac Young, Steven L. Klose, and Greg H. Kaase, Texas A&M University, Shad Nelson, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Juan Enciso, Texas A&M University*

Irrigation is a vital part of citrus production and the area economy in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A growing population has increased the demand for water and a need to evaluate conservation practices. This analysis illustrates the financial incentives to conserve water that may exist under volumetric water pricing.

**A Quota Market Model of the E.U.-ACP Sugar Protocol** *Liliane K. Zoungana and P. Lynn Kennedy, Louisiana State University*

Reforming EU sugar policy will mean that ACP suppliers will receive the same price cut on exports to the European Union as EU sugar growers. A bilateral monopoly model is used as an adjustment strategy for the ACP sugar protocol countries in response to the EU sugar policy reform.

**Trends in Louisiana Shrimp Industry from 2000–2007** *Latika Bharadwaj and David Lavergne, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries*

The poster is part of an ongoing project analyzing impact of hurricanes (Katrina and Rita) on dealers and working in Louisiana shrimp industry. It presents participation by shrimp dealers from 2000–2007. It also looks at trends in landings and value of shrimp landed with focus on hurricane years.

**Forecasting Water Demand and Value for Corn and Soybean Production in Alabama** *Swagata “Ban” Banerjee, Buddhi R. Gyawali, and James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University*

Limited water supply in the southern/southeastern states has been posing a serious problem in agriculture in recent years. Forecasting studies in Georgia and Mississippi have demonstrated the strength of econometric modeling vis-à-vis physical methods. A pilot study is being conducted for Alabama towards verifying the robustness of those findings.

**Increasing Agribusiness Student Engagement and Career Interests Among First Year College Students** *Joey Mehlhorn, Scott Parrott, and James Butler, University of Tennessee at Martin*

Agribusiness students participating in a semester long orientation course were evaluated to determine if the course increased their persistence to re-enroll the following year in college, maintain the same major, and improve social interaction among students. Students responded positively to the experience through higher collegiate GPA and increased persistence in college.

**Biodiesel Industry in Arkansas: Re-Assessing the Statewide Economic Impact** *Ranjitsinh U. Mane, Daniel V. Rainey, and Biswa R. Das, University of Arkansas*

The study quantifies the economic impact of the biodiesel industry on the state of Arkansas and attempts to identify impediments and issues surrounding the industry. Findings cast additional insight on the economic potential of biodiesel activity in Arkansas as well as highlight

biodiesel producers' concerns over the industry's future growth.

**Preventative Animal Healthcare: Micro-politan vs. Metropolitan Areas** *Scott Parrott, Janet Bailey, Kathryn Bray, and Joey Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee at Martin*

Two different geographic areas of Tennessee were analyzed to determine if socioeconomic status plays a role in risk mitigating decisions concerning animal care. Results indicate socioeconomic status is a determining factor in the decision to participate in preventative care options as well as the more expensive treatments available post-diagnosis.

**Ethanol Production, Energy Policy, and its Effects in Rural Economies in Alabama** *Kenesha Reynolds, Tuskegee University*

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