

**Steven J. Taff**

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**Current Positions :**

Associate Professor and Extension Economist (since 1990)  
Department of Applied Economics  
University of Minnesota

Adjunct Professor (since 1989)  
Department of Forest Resources  
University of Minnesota

**Primary Duties:**

Conduct research and extension education programs in land economics, agricultural and environmental policy, and public finance.

**Education:**

1985: Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin - Madison

1974: M.S., Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin - Madison

1969: B.A., Psychology (with Honors), Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Prior Positions:**

1985-1990: Assistant Professor and Extension Economist, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

1981-1985: Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin - Madison

1978-1980: Resource Agent, La Crosse County and University of Wisconsin - Extension

1974-1978: Area Community Development Agent, Mississippi River  
Regional Planning Commission and University of Wisconsin - Extension

1969-1971: US Army Translator (Vietnamese)

### **Extension Teaching**

My specific extension teaching activities fall into four major “program areas:” agricultural and environmental policy, land economics, land use, and public finance. These are further partitioned into thirteen sub-topics, called “program themes” for reporting purposes. Under each of these areas of emphasis, there lies a number of technical papers, seminar presentations, public lectures, staff development activities, and research grant support. The relative intensity of my focus will vary from year to year, depending upon the issues that seize public attention.

### **Classroom Teaching**

While I have never held a formal classroom teaching appointment, I am currently teaching Microeconomic Principles, I co-taught Welfare Economics in 1992, and I taught Land and Water Economics from 1993 to 1998.

### **Publications:**

#### *Journal Articles*

Kilgore, M. A., S. A. Snyder, S. J. Taff, and J. M. Schertz. Predicting a Family Forest Landowner’s Likelihood of Posting Land Against Trespass. *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*. 25(5):180-85. 2008.

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- Doss, C.R., and S. J. Taff. The Influence of Wetland Type and Wetland Proximity on Residential Property Values . *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* . v.21, no.1, July 1996, pp.120-129.
- Kozloff, K., S. J. Taff, and Y. Wang. Micro-Targeting the Acquisition of Cropping Rights to Reduce Nonpoint Source Water Pollution. *Water Resources Research*, v.28, no.3, March 1992, pp.623-28.
- Runge, C. F. and S. J. Taff. Commercio Agricolo e Negoziati GATT. *Scenari della Societa e del Territorio*, Anno 11, n. 2 - I Trimestre 1990, pp.16-27.
- Taff, S. J. Using the Conservation Reserve to Reduce Program Crop Plantings. *North Central Journal of Agricultural Economics*, v.12, no.1, January 1990, pp.89-97.
- Taff, S. J. New Rules, New Technologies, and the Shape of Minnesota Farming. *Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science*, v.54, no.2, Winter 1989, pp.9-12.
- Runge, C. F. and S. J. Taff. GATT: Will Our Future Be Compromised?. *Journal of Agricultural Lending*, v.3, no.2, October 1989, pp.2-12.
- Taff, S. J. and C. F. Runge. Wanted: A Leaner and Meaner CRP. *Choices*, First Quarter 1988, pp.16-18.
- Taff, S. J. Minnesota's RIM Reserve: How Does It Stack Up Against the CRP? *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, v.43, no.1, January-February 1988, pp.82-84.
- Books, Chapters in Books, Proceedings, etc.*
- Tiffany, D. G. and S. J. Taff. *Current and Future Ethanol Production Technologies: Costs of Production and Rates of Return on Invested Capital*. Prepared for Woodrow Wilson Center Conference *Biofuels in the Midwest*. September 6, 2008.

Viaggi, D. and S. J. Taff. Public Acquisitions of Property Rights To Serve Agriculture/Conservation Policy: Lessons from Italy and the US. In **Food, Agriculture and the Environment: Economic Issues**. E. Defrancesco, L. Galletto, and M. Thiene, eds. Dipartimento Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestali - Università di Padova; Fondazione Casa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo. FrancoAngeli s.r.l., Milano, Italy. pp.341-354. 2005.

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Taff, S. J. Biomass Supply Curve and Policy Issues. Chapters 4.3 and 11 in *Sustainable Biomass Energy Production, Volume 1, Dedicated Feedstock Supply System*. University of Minnesota. January 1995.

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Libby, L., D. E. Kugler, and S. J. Taff. The Power of Choice. in *New Crops, New Uses, New Markets: Industrial and Commercial Products from US Agriculture: The 1992 Yearbook of Agriculture*, US Department of Agriculture, 1992, pp.32-37.

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Runge, C. F. and S. J. Taff. The Uruguay Round Negotiations and Agricultural Trade. in Increasing Understanding of Public Problems and Policies--1988, Farm Foundation: Oak Brook, IL, January 1989, pp.164-73.

Lotterman, E. D. and S. J. Taff. Reshaping World Agricultural Policy Issues: Proceedings of the 1987 Luther Pickrel Agricultural Policy Seminar. Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul, February 1988.

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Taff, S. J. and C. F. Runge. Supply Control, Conservation and Budget Restraint: Conflicting Instruments in the 1985 Farm Bill. in Making Soil and Water Conservation Work: Scientific and Policy Perspectives, D.W. Halbach, C. F. Runge, and W.E. Larson, eds. Soil Conservation Society of America, 1987, pp.3-13.

*Technical Materials, Software, etc.*

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Taff, S. J. *Minnesota farm real estate sales: 1990 -2007* . University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics. Staff paper P08-5. June 2008.

Konishi, Y., J. S Coggins and S. J. Taff. *Estimating the Value of Foregone Rights on Land.* A report to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. July 2008.

Konishi, Y., J. S Coggins and S. J. Taff. *Choice of Design Storms and Its Implications for Temperature Trading.* A report to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. July 2008.

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- Harpankar, K. and S. J. Taff. Tracking the Effects of Conservation Easements on Property Tax Valuations. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P04-11. December 2004.
- Taff, S. J. Evidence of a Market Effect from Conservation Easements. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P04-9. November 2004.
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- Taff, S. J. Minnesota Farm Real Estate Sales: 1990-Present. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P02-6. May 2002.
- Taff, S. J. County-Level Distribution of Land Values in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P02-13. November 2002.
- Taff, S. J. Community-Wide Financial Impacts of Preferential Assessments for Farmland Properties. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P02-03. March 2002.
- Wegner, T.D., S. Ploetz, and S. J. Taff. Agricultural Land Conversion in the Twin Cities: Part II, the Natural Resources Inventory . University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P01-7. July 2001.
- Taff, S. J. and C. Mikesell. Minnesota Land Economics, Version 2.0. Software and web site. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. July 2001.
- Taff, S. J. Farm Real Estate Prices Still Rising in Minnesota . Minnesota Agricultural Economist. University of Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul. No.703. Winter 2001.
- Taff, S. J. and C. Mikesell. The Minnesota Land Economics Center. Software and web site. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. February 2000.
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Taff, S. J., P. Buessler, and M. Bean. AgLand: The Game . Software and facilitator manual. University of Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul. March 1998.

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Ryan, B. and S. J. Taff. The 1999 Minnesota Agricultural Land Values Schedule . University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. November 1998.

Taff, S. J. Critical Review of "One-Year Snapshot: Resource Conservation Benefits Associated with 1995 MSW Management in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area" and

Recommendations for Further State Action . Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance. April 1998.

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Hanson, D.K., S. J. Taff, and K.S. Klair. Financial Performance of Selected Grass-Based Farming Systems in the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Region . University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper 97-08. June 1997.

Taff, S. J. Minnesota Farmland Prices Up Again . Minnesota Agricultural Economist. University of Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul. No.690, Fall 1997.

Holtman, C., S. J. Taff, A. Meyer, and J. Leitch. An Inquiry into the Relationship of Wetland Regulations and Property Values in Minnesota. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper 96-16. December 1996.

Ryan, B. and S. J. Taff. Estimating Fiscal Impacts of Residential Development in Small Communities . Minnesota Extension Service. December 1996.

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Taff, S. J., D.G. Tiffany, and S. Weisberg . Measured Effects of Feedlots on Residential Property Values in Minnesota: A Report to the Legislature . University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P96-12. June 1996.

Taff, S. J., D. Tiffany, and D. Rose. BESIE : A First Stage Evaluator for Plantation-Based Biomass Energy Systems. Software and manual. Electric Power Research Institute EPRI AP-105788. December 1995.

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Taff, S. J. Farmland Sales Prices Down Statewide, But Up in Most Regions. Minnesota Agricultural Economist. Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul. No. 679, Winter 1995.

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Taff, S. J. A New Minnesota Farmland Price Series. Minnesota Agricultural Economist. Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul. No. 675, Winter 1994.

Taff, S. J. Expiring Minnesota CRP Contracts: 1996-98: State and County Summaries. University of Minnesota Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Economic Report ER93-1, February 1993.

Taff, S. J. The CRP in the Upper Midwest: What Should We Do Next?. Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul, 1993.

Doss, C. R. and S. J. Taff. The Relationship of Property Values and Wetlands Proximity in Ramsey County, Minnesota. University of Minnesota Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Economic Report 93-4, July 1993.

Taff, S. J. What Is a Wetland Worth?: Concepts and Issues in Economic Valuation. University of Minnesota Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Staff Paper P92-1, March 1992.

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Kozloff, K. and S. J. Taff. Perspectives on Competitive Bidding: Retirement of Environmentally Sensitive Farmland. University of Minnesota Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Staff Paper P90-56, October 1990.

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#### *Miscellaneous Articles and Presentations*

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### **December 2008**

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