

# MARGINAL MEMOS

Volume 62, Number 10, March 16, 2020  
Editor: Sadie Brendalen

## Jobs

### Agricultural Economist: National Organic Program, Washington D.C.

The National Organic Program within the Department of Agriculture is seeking an agricultural economist. This person develops and analyzes data to interpret and identify marketing trends and compliance and enforcement data to support investigations and trends analysis. You will assist project leaders and management in developing project plans, coordinating overall team efforts, and maintaining appropriate lines of communication, select and adapt quantitative methods, practices and theories to conduct surveys, perform analysis, interpret results, and develop findings and reports. You will apply trade data to identify economic trends and fluctuations, analyze findings, evaluate statistical limitations of data, and specify the range of results to provide basis for management planning, budgeting, and resource decisions.

[Apply online](#)

### Data Scientist: Ohio University

THIS IS A GRANT-FUNDED POSITION. EMPLOYMENT IS CONTINGENT UPON CONTINUED FUNDING FROM THE GRANT PROVIDER.

The George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University is seeking an enthusiastic and flexible Data Scientist who will assist a multidisciplinary team of faculty, professional staff, and students with applied research, data analysis, project management, oral presentations, report/grant writing, and related tasks in the areas of energy policy and economic development. This position will contribute to and support applied and original economic research in line with the Voinovich school's mission of providing research-based solutions to challenges existing in communities, the economy, and the environment with a particular focus on Appalachian Ohio. Research topics include but are not limited to community and economic development, education, energy, health, and housing. This research will inform policy discussions and help develop innovative and effective responses to local,

regional, and national shifts in policy, need, and opportunity.

The ideal candidate will collect data as needed by either scraping websites or by building queries using programming languages such as Python and SQL. In addition to familiarity with multiple data collection methods, the position will build tools and web applications to provide interactive access to data and results produced during project work. The position will also engage in data analysis, assisting in the preparation of publications, and grant proposal preparation and writing.

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### Modeler: USDA/ERS, Kansas City, MO

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has a high priority need for an Economist to work with the Regional Environment and Agriculture Programming (REAP) model in our Kansas City, MO office. REAP was born of the movement towards large-scale mathematical programming models of agricultural production. Programmed in GAMS, the main function of REAP is to simulate the regional allocation of resources (land and other inputs, such as fertilizer and water) used by production agriculture in the U.S. and how those allocations change in response to changes in policy, market, or bio-physical conditions. The products included in REAP are commodity crops, livestock, and several specialty crops, like fruits and nuts. REAP is a partial equilibrium, price endogenous model that solves for an optimal intersection of supply and demand at the national level, allowing for regional variation according to differing resource endowments, inputs and production. The optimization allocates agricultural production into regions, crop rotations, production methods (tillage and irrigation options), and livestock and processed goods production pathways that maximize national economic surplus.

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### Postdoctoral researcher: University of Delaware

The Center for Experimental & Applied Economics (CEAE) at the University of Delaware seeks a qualified candidate to serve as a postdoctoral researcher for 2-3 years. The successful candidate will contribute to an interdisciplinary team developing coupled human-natural system models and applying experimental and behavioral economics to investigate key agri-environmental issues, such as nonpoint source pollution mitigation, climate change adaptation, seawater intrusion, irrigation management, and environmental risk management. Experience with agent-based modeling is preferred, but not required. Additionally, we are seeking a candidate with an interest in designing economic experiments that can inform the parameterization of such models. This position and related research are supported from funds from the National Science Foundation and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Submit via email a letter of application, vita, a personal statement, university transcripts (unofficial transcripts are sufficient), and the names of three references to Dr. Leah Palm-Forster (leahhp@udel.edu).

## Departmental Publications

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Bloem, J. (2020). Review of "Shrewd Samaritan: Faith, Economics, and the Road to Loving Our Global Neighbor." *Christian Relief, Development, and Advocacy: The Journal of the Accord Network*, 1(2), 109-110. Retrieved from <https://crdajournal.org/index.php/crda/article/view/403>

Dang, Hai-Anh, Paul Glewwe, Jongwook Lee, and Khoa Vu. 2020. "What Explains Vietnam's Exceptional Performance in Education Relative to Other Countries? Analysis of the 2012 and 2015 PISA Data." Working Paper. St. Paul, MN. [https://www.apec.umn.edu/sites/apec.umn.edu/files/pisa\\_vn8.pdf](https://www.apec.umn.edu/sites/apec.umn.edu/files/pisa_vn8.pdf).

Kerwin, Jason T., and Rebecca L. Thornton. 2020. "Making the Grade: The Sensitivity of Education Program Effectiveness to Input Choices and Outcome Measures." *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, March, p.1–45. [https://doi.org/10.1162/rest\\_a\\_00911](https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00911).



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# APPLIED ECONOMICS

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