

MARGINAL MEMOS

Volume 62, Number 16, April 27, 2020
Editor: Sadie Brendalen

Announcements

Congratulations, Gabriella!

The department has learned that Gabriella Sorg will be receiving the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association this summer. Gabriella graduated in October of 2019 and is employed as an analyst at Compeer. Her thesis title was "Dairy Confined Animal Feeding Permits on Public Notice as a Leading Indicator of Milk Supply". She worked with Mike Boland and Marin Bozic. Her research paper is currently under review.

Dissertation Defenses

Yu Wang has his virtual dissertation defense on **Tuesday, April 28th at 9 AM**. The Zoom link is <https://umn.zoom.us/j/4472459348> and Zoom ID is 447-245-9348.

The title of his dissertation is "Three Essays on Political Economy and the Methods". The title of Essay 1 is "Local Direct Elections, Local Information and Meritocratic Selection", the title of Essay 2 is "Lagged Variables as Instruments", and the title of Essay 3 is "Spatially Lagged Variables as Instruments: The Spatially Local Average Treatment Effect (SLATE) in Estimation".

Jeffrey Bloem is scheduled for **Thursday, April 30 from noon through around 1:30 pm** central time.

He will present "Three Essays in Development Economics" which will summarize (you may have guessed it) the following three research papers: (1) "Good Intentions Gone Bad? The Dodd-Frank Act and Conflict in Africa's Great Lakes Region," (2) "Aspirations and Investments in Rural Myanmar," and (3) How Much Does the Cardinal Treatment of Ordinal Variables Matter? An Empirical Investigation."

Here is a Zoom link: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/95255898292>.

Jobs

Associate/Full Professor: Nanjing Agricultural University

The College of Economics and Management at Nanjing Agricultural University seeks multiple faculty appointees who will develop distinguished research and teaching programs in one or more of the following areas: agricultural economics and policy; environmental and resource economics; health economics; international trade and development; rural development; applied econometrics; or experimental and behavioral economics in relation to the above fields. The appointees are expected to develop creative and productive research programs that serve the public interest at national or international level. The appointees are also expected to teach courses in the instructional programs of the college at the undergraduate and graduate levels and enhance the quality of education in these programs.

[Apply online](#)

Assistant Dean: Illinois Extension

The Assistant Dean (Program Leader) for Agriculture and Agribusiness (AAB) serves as a regular, full time, 12-month academic professional with primary responsibility for leading and developing statewide educational programming in commercial agriculture, horticulture, local foods/small farms, and systems that support these critical areas for the Illinois food and agriculture industry. The Assistant Dean for AAB supports one of the six core Extension program areas and within the AAB program area may focus on one or more of the following interdisciplinary initiatives: Community; Economy; Environment; Food, and/or Health. The Assistant Dean for AAB provides organizational leadership in building relationships and reporting outcomes to Regional and County Directors, local, state and national legislators, and other stakeholders. The incumbent provides leadership to Extension's volunteer delivery system and provides summaries of the value of volunteers and AAB program outcomes and impacts.

The Assistant Dean for AAB will be expected to lead and deliver research-based educational programs and to work within team settings that may consist of other Extension Assistant Deans, Extension Regional and County Directors, Extension Educators and Specialists, and faculty within and outside of the College of ACES. Establishment of a program of work based on community-based needs assessments is essential to provide clear directions, partnerships, and collaborations to successfully solve grand challenges.

The Assistant Dean for AAB is expected to concentrate programmatically on commercial agriculture, agribusiness, livestock management, agronomy, specialty crop production, horticulture, plant diagnostics, pesticide safety, and soil and water, among other critical areas. The Assistant Dean is responsible for the Master Gardener program and other AAB-oriented services and for developing innovative programs that address AAB needs in Illinois. Close collaboration with other Assistant Deans is required. The Assistant Dean for AAB also will be expected to build networks among diverse groups and take a systems approach to leading

efforts in AAB. The Assistant Dean for AAB will be located in Urbana-Champaign on the University of Illinois campus, and will report to the Associate Dean and Director of Extension and Outreach, and will be available to all of Illinois Extension and Outreach.

[Apply online](#)

Extension Outreach Associate: Illinois Extension

The Extension Outreach Associate, Community Engagement serves as a full time, 12 month academic professional directly reporting to the EPECC Coordinator. The Outreach Associate will be primarily responsible for the development and delivery of services that support public impact-focused research (PIR) and community engaged scholarship within Extension's five critical issue areas: food, economy, environment, community, and health. The position will have emphasis on developing internal communication strategies to foster successful collaboration between partners with highly diverse backgrounds (culture, sector, knowledge, etc.). The Associate will assist EPECC clients via services including training, group facilitation, educational resources, consultation, planning, and evaluation of projects – both those formally supported by EPECC grant and fellowship programs and to the larger Extension and University of Illinois network. The Associate will be responsible for providing expertise and staying abreast of current developments in group dynamics and communication, especially within the context of PIR and community engaged scholarship (e.g., participatory research, citizen science, service learning).

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Agricultural Economist: Department of Agriculture

The selected candidate acts as a senior commodity analyst and, as assigned by the WAOB Chairperson, serves as backup and assistant to the Chairs of USDA's Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICEs). They serve as the primary backup for the Department's principal commodity analysts for crops and livestock products, monitor agricultural markets and initiates, directs, coordinates, and conducts economic analyses relating to the supply, use, and price forecasts for crops and livestock products, monitor changing agricultural policies, programs, economic conditions, and other factors having an impact on the current and future supply of and demand for agricultural commodities.

At the direction of the ICEC Chairpersons, coordinates and prepares forecasts for USDA's baseline. Provides ICEC Chairpersons with information in required form on latest data, in order to ensure objective, timely, and reliable supply and demand estimates. Keeps current on changes in world and domestic situation and outlook and responds to inquiries from Department personnel, farmers, market analysts, and media.

Provides input to the ICEC for preparing agricultural estimates and forecasts for release to the public and for internal Departmental program needs.

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Teaching Instructor or Teaching Assistant Professor: Oklahoma State University

The Department of Agricultural Economics at OSU has a strong national reputation in providing quality teaching, advising, and mentoring for our undergraduate students. Our students value the dedication of both faculty and staff in assisting students personally as well as academically. The faculty member will continue this tradition of excellence with a teaching program in one or more of the subject matter areas in agricultural economics and agribusiness. The faculty member will have the opportunity to participate in teaching and advising development efforts presented by the college and university. Specific courses and other assignments including serving on departmental committees will depend on the strengths and interests of the individual hired and the department needs, but include the following general responsibilities:

- Develop and deliver a highly-regarded teaching program focused on student learning
- Teach three courses each fall and spring semester
- Advise and mentor undergraduate students
- Help with student recruitment and placement activities
- Communicate teaching innovations to professional peers

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