

MARGINAL MEMOS

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Editor: Sadie Brendalen

Announcements

August 5- Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar

The seminar will be held on Wednesdays at 11 am Central US time.

The seminar this week will be held on August 5, 2020. Teevrat Garg, University of California, San Diego, will present, "Agriculture and Deforestation."

If you would like to register, see the OARES website [here](#), and make sure to sign up with your institutional address. The OARES website includes a schedule of forthcoming talks as well.

Joleen Hadrich featured on WPR

APEC faculty member Joleen Hadrich was featured last week on Wisconsin Public Radio. Read more about what she has to say regarding price volatility and profitability for dairy farms in the rapidly changing market conditions.

[Read More](#)

Jobs

EPA Water and Air Quality Policy Assessment Internship: US EPA, Washington, D.C.

A research training opportunity is currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Policy (OP)/National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE), located at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC. The participant will be involved with NCEE economists on research projects that will improve methodologies to assess the benefits and costs of environmental policies that improve water and air quality. The

projects will involve significant data analysis and coding. One component of the water quality project is an evaluation of affordability metrics for costs of drinking and wastewater that are passed on to customers through water bills. With guidance and direction from an NCEE economist, the participant will review the literature on proposed affordability metrics (including those for similar services, such as electricity), apply these metrics to existing data, and evaluate their performance. The participant will also contribute to the evaluation of the effect of changes in water bills on outcomes such as household and government finances. Finally, the participant will engage in a study of the effectiveness of compliance assurance (inspections and enforcement) in the context of water quality. This project will involve the use of large, administrative data sets.

[Apply online](#)

Graduate Research Assistantship: Water Economics and Climate Change Research, Oregon State University

OSU is recruiting an M.S. student for a two-year graduate research assistantship focused on the impact of climate change on risk of water shortages and the evaluation of adaptation policies from both economic and hydrologic perspectives. The interdisciplinary project will focus on increasing understanding of climate change impacts to surface water supply and demand in Oregon Coast communities. The goals are to characterize potential risks of climate extremes on these water systems without significant storage or groundwater capacity through coupling hydrologic models of stream flows and economic models of water demand to determine cost-effective policy options that would increase future resilience of these rural coastal water utilities.

For more information, please contact [David Rupp](#) or [Steven Dundas](#).

Sustainability Forecasting Fellow: Applied Economics, UMN

The Natural Capital Project and the University of Minnesota's Department of Applied Economics seeks a research fellow to work with an interdisciplinary collaborative research team to assess the degree to which current and future sustainability standards can lead to improved environmental, economic and social outcomes and to identify how these standards can be better designed to help society meet future demand while sustaining ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The project is an innovative, forward-looking academic-NGO-private sector collaboration between eight partners, including the University of Minnesota, the global membership association for credible sustainability standards, ISEAL, three global standard setting organizations and three corporate buyers of sugarcane, rubber and oil palm. The effort represents the first steps to connect commodity standards, reduce commodity impacts on the environment, and help governments and brands target sustainability investments. Sustainability forecasting methods will leverage predictive models that translate producer-

level actions into predictions of landscape-scale environmental and social impacts that will be used to evaluate the outcomes of alternative scenarios of land use policy and climate change. Results of these analyses will be used to assess the 'business case' of partner strategies and to inform future standard design and procurement decisions. Additionally, data and models will be integrated into a 'real-time' decision support tool based on GeoDesign principles and then applied with stakeholders to design future standards and corporate sourcing strategies and assess the impacts of implementation.

The fellow will collaborate with a diverse team of academic, NGO and private sector professionals to investigate 1) how Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) can help society achieve conservation and Sustainable Development Goals, 2) how VSS could be made even more impactful by building adaptability into standard design and criteria, and 3) where future VSS adoption efforts should be prioritized and targeted. The developed scientific methodology will be transferable to a wide range of commodities and regions and allow for any number of alternative policy scenarios.

This is a 24-month position that can begin as early as August 15, 2020 and is based in St. Paul, Minnesota with mentors Dr. Derric Pennington, Dr. Tim Smith, Len Kne, Dr. Justin Johnson and Dr. Steve Polasky.

TO APPLY: Applications must be submitted online at <https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs> (search for job opening 336739). Include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, names, addresses and email contact information for two professional references. Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Derric Pennington at derric@umn.edu.

[Apply online](#)

Multiple Positions: J-PAL

Are you passionate about international development and poverty alleviation around the world? Do you love to learn? Are you ready to join a team of supportive, engaging, and fun colleagues?

Check out the current listing of open positions at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab by using the link below.

[Apply online](#)

Departmental Publications

Bellemare, Marc F., Kenn Chua, Julieth Santamaria, and Khoa Vu. 2020. "Tenurial Security

and Agricultural Investment: Evidence from Vietnam.” *Food Policy* 94 (July): 101839.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2020.101839>.

Chai, Yuan, Philip G Pardey, Terrance M Hurley, Senait Senay, and Jason Michael Beddow. 2020. “A Probabilistic Bio-Economic Assessment of the Global Consequences of Wheat Leaf Rust.” *Phytopathology*®, July, PHYTO-02-20-0032-R.
<https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-02-20-0032-R>.

Hurley, Terrance M., and Paul D. Mitchell. 2020. “The Value of Insect Management to U.S. Maize, Soybean and Cotton Farmers.” *Pest Management Science*, June, ps.5974.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.5974>.

Keller, Andrew, Michael A Boland, and Metin Çakır. 2020. “The Impact of an Increase in the Federal Minimum Wage on the Egg Industry.” Staff Paper P20-4. St. Paul, MN: Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.
<https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/303916>.

Rao, Xudong, Terrance M. Hurley, and Philip G. Pardey. 2020. “Recalibrating the Reported Returns to Agricultural R&D: What If We All Heeded Griliches?.” *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 64 (3): 977–1001. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12388>.

Thakrar, Sumil K., Srinidhi Balasubramanian, Peter J. Adams, Inês M. L. Azevedo, Nicholas Z. Muller, Spyros N. Pandis, Stephen Polasky, et al. 2020. “Reducing Mortality from Air Pollution in the United States by Targeting Specific Emission Sources.” *Environmental Science & Technology Letters*, July, acs.estlett.0c00424.
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00424>.



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