

Department of Applied Economics 1994 Buford Avenue St. Paul, MN, 55108, USA

MARGINAL MEMOS

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Editor: Sadie Brendalen

Announcements

August 12- 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 12, 2020. Jennifer Alix-Garcia, Oregon State University will present, "Remotely Incorrect?"

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

Research Economist: USDA Forest Service, St. Paul, MN

The Northern Research Station (NRS) is recruiting a permanent Research Economist in its social science research work unit (NRS-09): People and Their Environments: Social Science Supporting Natural Resource Management and Policy. The position will be at the GS-12 level (\$82,484 starting salary), plus standard Federal benefits. The duty station is the NRS building located on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, which is home of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, including the

Departments of Applied Economics, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, and Forest Resources. The Research Economist position is broadly conceived as focusing on the economics of natural resource management and conservation. We welcome applicants with a background in environmental, ecological, natural resource, institutional, forestry, agricultural, or behavioral economics. The Incumbent works as both a principal investigator and team member in research to understand the cumulative effects of peoples' decisions on forest, grassland, and wetland ecosystems and the values of associated goods and services. Research will be in one or more of the following areas: analyses of how social and environmental factors affect peoples' behavior and management of ecosystems; analyses of how management decisions affect ecosystems and associated goods and services; economic valuation of market and non-market goods and services; benefit-cost analyses of ecosystem management strategies, policies, and regulations; and/or estimation of regional impacts of natural resource management and policy.

[Apply online](#)

Research Scientist 2: Minnesota Management and Budget

This position reports to the State Economist and is responsible for performing detailed, technical work in support of the twice-yearly state economic and revenue forecast. Duties include collecting data, developing and maintaining analytical computer programs, tracking revenue collections as assigned, performing analysis, forecasting revenues, and contributing to document preparation.

[Apply online](#)

Agricultural Economist (2 positions): Natural Conservation Service, Portland, OR or Fort Worth, TX

This position is located on the staff of the National Technology Support Center (NTSC). The incumbent serves as the NRCS expert on economic matters concerning water quality and quantity programs, activities, and issues. Incumbent also provides leadership in the acquisition and development of scientific and technological tools, methods, and procedures regarding water resources planning.

[Apply online](#)

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](#)

Extension Agricultural Economist: Kansas State University

The Kansas Farm Management Association (KFMA) Southeast is seeking applicants to fill the role of an Extension Agricultural Economist. The responsibilities of an Extension Agricultural Economist are varied but center around providing education and consultation

to KFMA member farms in the area of farm business management. KFMA Economists strive to provide cooperating farms with resources to make informed financial, production, and tax management decisions.

KFMA SE works with farm families in a 20-county area. Principal crops are wheat, corn, soybeans, and hay. Livestock enterprises in SE Kansas include beef, swine, and turkey production. Average farm size is 1,500 crop acres.

[Apply online](#)

Economist: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

E3 is seeking an economist to provide technical leadership and policy advice to the bureaus and missions with respect to economic analysis and analytical thinking.

Additionally, the economist will provide mentoring of junior and mid-level staff as well as strategic and technical leadership in designing and assessing the feasibility of projects, programs, and strategies to enable country self-reliance. The successful candidate will serve as an Agency technical expert, leader, and resource-person on economic analysis.

The purpose of this position is to provide technical analysis to missions and Agency Operating Units in support of project design and project- and country-level development.

In particular, the incumbent advises office, bureau, and mission staff on a variety of economic program and project issues and assists them in carrying out project level analysis, such as Cost Benefit Analyses (CBA), Cost Effectiveness Analysis, feasibility studies, and project design proposals, as well as providing assistance at the strategic level through Inclusive Growth Diagnostics (IGD) and other country-level analyses. Candidates that can take a leading role in coordinating field support for project level analysis, especially CBA, and in conceptualizing new approaches in CBA as needed, are strongly preferred.

Please submit your application package, which should include a resume/CV, a short written statement of interest, and official or unofficial transcripts to e3fsljobs@usaid.gov. Please use the subject line "E3 Announcement No. 32389, Economist, FSL-02, E3/EP."

Application submissions are required by 11:59 p.m. (EST), August 18, 2020. Packages not submitted by the deadline with the specified subject line—or incomplete packages—will not receive consideration.

Departmental Publications

Reardon, Thomas & Bellemare, Marc F. & Zilberman, David, 2020. "How COVID-19 may disrupt food supply chains in developing countries," IFPRI book chapters, in: COVID-19 and global food security, chapter 17, pages 78-80, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133762_17

Reinhardt, J.R., Russell, M.B., Senay, S. et al. Assessing the current and potential future

distribution of four invasive forest plants in Minnesota, U.S.A., using mixed sources of data.

Sci Rep 10, 12738 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-69539-1>



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