

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.

Publications:

Journal Articles

Kovacs K, Polasky S, Nelson E, Keeler BL, Pennington D, et al. (2013) Evaluating the Return in Ecosystem Services from Investment in Public Land Acquisitions. PLoS ONE 8(6): e62202. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0062202

Kilgore, M.A., S.A. Snyder, K. Block-Torgerson, and S.J. Taff. Challenges in Characterizing a Parcelized Forest Landscape: Why Metric, Scale and Threshold Matter. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Volume 110, February 2013, Pages 36–47. DOI:10.1016/j.landurbplan.2012.09.009

Gillitzer, Peter A, Donald L. Wyse, Craig C. Sheaffer, Steven J. Taff and Clarence C. Lehman. Biomass Production Potential of Grasslands in the Oak Savanna Region of Minnesota, USA. *BioEnergy Research*. 2012. DOI: 10.1007/s12155-012-9233-z. August.

Boies, AM, McFarlane, D, Taff, S, Watts, WF, Kittelson, DB. Implications of local lifecycle analyses and low carbon fuel standard design on gasohol transportation fuels. *Energy Policy*, 39. pp. 7191-7201. 2011

Abbas, D., D. Current, M. Ryans, S. Taff, H Hoganson, and K. N. Brooks. Harvesting Forest Biomass for Energy - An Alternative to Conventional Fuel Treatments: Trials in the Superior National Forest, USA. *Biomass and Bioenergy* (2011), doi:10.1016/j.biombioe.2011.06.030

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Tiffany, D. and S. J. Taff. Current and future ethanol production technologies: costs of production and Rates of Return on invested capital. *Int. J. Biotechnology*. 11(1/2):75-91. 2009.

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Kilgore, M. A., S. A. Snyder, S. J. Taff, and J. M. Schertz. Does Forest Land Posted Against Trespass Really Mean No Hunter Access? *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. 14(5). 2009.

Kilgore, M. A., S. A. Snyder, S. J. Taff, and J. M. Schertz. Estimating a Family Forest Landowner's Likelihood of Posting Land Against Trespass. *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*. 25(4):180-85. 2008.

Snyder, S. A., M. A. Kilgore, S. J. Taff, and J. M. Schertz. Family Forest Stewardship: Do Owners Need a Financial Incentive? *Journal of Forestry*. 10(7):357-62. 2008.

Kilgore, M. A., S. A. Snyder, J. M. Schertz, and S. J. Taff. What Does it Take to get Family Forest Owners to Enroll in a Forest Stewardship-Type Program? *Forest Policy and Economics*. 10(2008):507-514. 2008.

Kilgore, M. A., S. A. Snyder, J. M. Schertz, and S. J. Taff. The Cost of Acquiring Public Hunting Access on Family Forest Lands. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. 13(3):175-86. May-June 2008.

Taff, S. J. and S. Weisberg. Compensated short term conservation restrictions lower sales prices. *The Appraisal Journal*. 75(1):45-55. Winter 2007.

Updegraff, K., M. J. Baughman, and S. J. Taff. Environmental Benefits of Cropland Conversion to Hybrid Poplar: Economic and Policy Considerations. *Biomass and Bioenergy*. 27(2004):411-428. December 2004.

Shultz, S. and S. J. Taff. Implicit Prices of Wetland Easements in Areas of Production Agriculture. *Land Economics*. 80(4):501-512. November 2004.

Shultz, S. and S. J. Taff. Calculating Wetland Easement Payments Using Alternative Land Value Data: A Case Study of the USFW Small Wetland Acquisition Program in the Prairie Pothole Region. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. 59(3): May 2004.

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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 Società 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.

Becker, D.; Lowell, E.; Bihn, D.; Anderson, R.; Taff, S. 2014. Community biomass handbook. Volume I: Thermal wood energy. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-899. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Kittelson, David B., Steven J. Taff, David E. Bennett, Chin-Tung Chan, and Winthrop F. Watts. Performance and emissions of a Second Generation Biofuel – DME. Prepared for 7th Asian DME Conference, Niigata Japan, 16-18 November, 2011.

Coggins, J. S.; Taff, S. J. “Water Quality: Trading and the Effects of Agricultural and Energy Policy.” IN: *Water Policy in Minnesota: Issues, Incentives, and Action*, edited by K. William Easter and Jim Perry. New York, NY: Resources for the Future, 2011.

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. Some Spatial Aspects of an Externality: The Case of Livestock Production Facilities . IN: Proceedings of Fifth Joint Conference on Food, Agriculture, and the Environment . University of Minnesota Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy Working Paper WP96-4. November 1996.

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Taff, Steven J. Minnesota farm real estate sales: 1990 -2013. University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics. Staff paper P14-03. March 2014.

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Taff, Steven J. Minnesota farm real estate sales: 1990 -2012. University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics. Staff paper P13-04. July 2013.

Dalzell, Brent, Derric Pennington, Stephen Polasky, David Mulla, Steve Taff, and Erik Nelson. Lake Pepin Watershed Full Cost Accounting Project. Final Report Prepared for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. University of Minnesota. July 2012.

Becker, D.R., S.J. Taff, and D. Wilson. Pre-Feasibility Financial and Wood Supply Analysis for Biomass District Heating in Ely and Cook County, MN. University of Minnesota report to Dovetail Partners, Inc. October 2012.

Taff, Steven J. Minnesota farm real estate sales: 1990 -2011. University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics. Staff paper P12-03. April 2012.

Becker, Dennis; Taff, Steven J.; Smale, Andrew; Wilson, David; Ek, Alan; Klapperich, Jon; Hartley, Chuck; Fernholz, Katie; Bratkovich, Steve; Bowyer, Jim; Atwood, Gary; Miller, Cheryl. Forest Biomass Heating and Electricity in Cook County, MN, Phase I Report. Minneapolis, MN: Dovetail Partners, 2011.

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Kovacs, K.F., D. Pennington, B. Keeler, D. Kessler, J. O. Fletcher, S. Polasky, and S. J. Taff. Return on Investment in Conservation: An Economic Analysis of Ecosystem Services from Land Acquisitions by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A report to the Trust for Public Land. December 21, 2010

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Taff, S. J. and C. Nelson. Assessment of the Pre-Plant Environmental Impacts of a Biomass Fuels System at Rock-Tenn. The Green Institute for the Saint Paul Port Authority. July 2008.

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.

Konishi, Y., J. S Coggins and S. J. Taff. On the Key Elements of the Vermillion Thermal Trading Program: What Do We Still Need to Figure Out? A report to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. March 2008.

Taff, S. J. Minnesota farm real estate sales: 1990 -2006 . University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics. Staff paper P07-11. June 2007.

Mundell, J., S. J. Taff, M. A. Kilgore, and S. A. Snyder. Assessing Trends in Forest Parcelization and Development in Minnesota: An Itasca County Case Study. A Report to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources Staff Paper 192. July 2007.

Konishi, Y., J. S Coggins and S. J. Taff. The Vermillion Thermal Trading Program: The Concept and Design of Market Structures: A Summary Report. A report to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. June 2007.

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Butcher, K. (principal) and S. J. Taff (contributor). Identifying Effective Biomass Strategies: Quantifying Minnesota's Resources and Evaluating Future Opportunities. Center for Energy and Environment, Minneapolis, MN. October 2007.

Kilgore, M. A., J. M. Schertz, S. A. Snyder, and S. J. Taff. Family Forest Owner Perceptions and Attitudes: Minnesota's Sustainable Forest Incentives Act, Summary of Survey Results. A Report to the Blandin Foundation. University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources. January 2007.

Taff, S. J. Source code for web version of the Energy and Emissions Tracker simulation software. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. December 2006.

Jones, K., B. Jordan, K. H. Keller, and S. J. Taff. Reducing CO2 emissions in the Upper Midwest: technology, resources, economics, and policy. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Staff Paper P06-10. November 2006.

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Jordan, B. and S. J. Taff. Minnesota's Commercial Alternative Energy Industries: Production, Policies, and Local Economies. Minnesota Center for Rural Policy and Development. St. Peter, Minnesota. August 2005

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- Taff, S. J. and C. Mikesell, Source Code for Minnesota Land Economics Web Site. University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. September 2003.
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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.
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