August Newsletter 2022

Hello Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! This month's features are:

- The Market Corner article by Kim Morgan, C-FARE Board Member.
- This month's Director in the Spotlight features C-FARE Board Member Lauren Chenarides.
- C-FARE will host a webinar entitled **"Pollution Mitigation Practices in Agriculture: Incentives, Practices, and Policies"** on September 2 at 12 PM ET. Register here.
- New Direction features articles and papers titled:
    - The economics of malnutrition: Dietary transition and food system transformation
    - Global variation in the cost of a nutrient-adequate diet by population group
    - Time-Series Methods for Forecasting and Modeling Uncertainty in the Food Price Outlook

Keep reading to learn more,

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Market Corner

In 2020, the US workforce employed on farms was < 2% and 19.7 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors. Add in 17.1 million jobs in ag- and food-related industries (food service, eating and drinking places, and food/beverage stores), and these sectors account for almost 1/5th of total US employment. Ag output has tripled since 1948 due to increases in total factor productivity growth led by changes in human capital. The share of total hours worked by people in the farm sector with up to 1-3 years of high school was 85% in 1950 and dropped to 23% in 2017, while those with four years of high school or more shifted from 15% to 77% over this same time period, according to a 2022 USDA Amber Waves article.

And humans are gobbling up these just-in-time productivity gains. The world's population quadrupled over the last century, and the number of items available within grocery stores jumped from 7,000 to 30,000+ since the early 1990s. These data shine a light on the return to investment in applied economics training. My colleagues work with learners to raise awareness of market trends, provide perspective on why objective risk measurement and management matters, and show how economic modeling may answer critical questions, inform stakeholders, and convey policy implications under conditions of scarcity and uncertainty. Societal components of our discipline such as client relationships, network construction, and team-centric servant leadership enable learners to demonstrate ownership of their economic training. Adoption of reflective pedagogical methods serve to inspire participatory and collaborative approaches to problem-solving. With continued support from USDA grants and partner donations, we foster growth in the human capital responsible for driving productivity gains in the US economy and improved overall quality of life across the globe.

Director in the Spotlight

SHORT BIO

Lauren Chenarides is an Assistant Professor at the Morrison School of Agribusiness at the W. P. Carey School of Business. She conducts research in food supply chains, sustainable food systems, food access and food assistance, and the impact of COVID-19 on food and agricultural markets. A primary stream of her research examines how changes in the food retail environment affect food insecurity outcomes for US consumers.

INTERESTS

Food markets: How they work, who they serve and don't serve, and when policy action should be taken when markets are not functioning efficiently.

WHY ASU?
I started my career at ASU. I have been fortunate to work with curious, driven, and motivated colleagues and students not only within my department, but also at my college and across the university, at an institution that incentives innovative and creative ideas. These collaborations have opened pathways to study meaningful topics and, importantly, make an impact.

HOT STOCK
I am working on a team that is developing a platform designed to integrate data used in food and agricultural research. The features of the platform will help users identify appropriate data, provide best practices for using various data products, overcome challenges associated with data quality issues, and promote the replicability of data-driven research dedicated to answering the most pressing questions in food and agriculture.

WATCHWORD 2022
Evidence-based policymaking is more essential than ever given many concurrent challenges facing society today, particularly in addressing perennial questions about hunger, nutrition, and health. I aim to build a thriving evidence-based research program that requires an integrated ecosystem of data networks to answer policy-relevant questions centered on improving food security for all.

ICYMI

- **Save the Date!** C-FARE will be hosting a webinar entitled "Pollution Mitigation Practices in Agriculture" on September 2 at 12 PM ET. Register here.
- Check out our fourth episode of C-FARE's podcast Get a Grip with FARE featuring Peyton Ferrier and Steve Neff from the USDA Economists Group.

- In cased you missed it, the recording of C-FARE's Brandt Forum on "Agricultural And Environmental Science-Based Policy" is now available on our website and through this replay.
- C-FARE hosted a webinar entitled "Building the Capacity to Invest in Rural Prosperity Part II". Check out our website and YouTube for a recap.

New Directions

- **The economics of malnutrition: Dietary transition and food system transformation**. Rapid increases in food supplies have reduced global hunger, while rising burdens of diet-related disease have made poor diet quality the leading cause of death and disability around the world. Today's "double burden" of undernourishment in utero and early childhood then undesired weight gain and obesity later in life is accompanied by a third less visible burden of micronutrient imbalances. Learn More Here.
- **Global variation in the cost of a nutrient-adequate diet by population group.** Nutrient deficiencies limit human development and could be caused by the high cost of locally available foods needed to meet nutrient requirements. We aimed to identify the populations whose nutrient needs are most difficult to meet with existing global food systems. Read More Here.
- **Time-Series Methods for Forecasting and Modeling Uncertainty in the Food Price Outlook.** The USDA, Economic Research Service's Food Price Outlook (FPO) provides monthly forecasts of annual food price percent changes up to 18 months in advance. The forecasts add value to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer and Producer Price Indexes (CPI, PPI) by giving farmers, wholesalers, retailers, institutional buyers, consumers, and policymakers a uniform set of predictions about food prices .Learn more here.