

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



Charting our Farm and Food Futures

THE COUNCIL ON FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND
RESOURCE ECONOMICS



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THE COUNCIL ON FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

C-FARE is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code that promotes the work of applied economists and serves to incorporate economic thinking into the analysis of food, agricultural and resource decisions. The council aims to be a conduit between the academic research community and Washington policymakers and agency leaders. Incorporated in 1993, C-FARE is based in Washington and governed by a board of applied economists representing a range of public and private sector interests.

C-FARE's Mission

C-FARE's mission is to enhance national decisions concerning food, agriculture and resources. The council achieves this by elevating agricultural and applied economics research, modeling and analysis before federal lawmakers and policy advisors.

C-FARE's Goals

C-FARE's Board of Directors has adopted a set of goals to serve the needs of the profession.

GOAL ONE

Advance the role of agricultural and applied economists in identifying and informing research and policy issues.

GOAL TWO

Significantly increase the understanding that public and federal policymaking audiences have of the value of food, agricultural, resource, and applied economics information and analysis.

GOAL THREE

Maintain and increase resources and opportunities that support agricultural and applied economics research, outreach and education

GOAL FOUR

Foster opportunities to build human capital for a national workforce equipped with the skills required to inform private and public economic policy.

C-FARE'S CORE VALUES

- Collaboration:** C-FARE advances the applied economics profession through its continuous development of effective communication pathways that connect the profession to users of food, agricultural, natural resource and applied economics information and analysis.
- Excellence:** C-FARE distills authoritative economic analysis from the agricultural and applied economics profession into information that communicates effectively with its critical audiences.
- Integrity:** C-FARE is guided by the highest level of objectivity.
- Innovation:** C-FARE identifies and facilitates innovative analyses and engagement.
- Relevance:** C-FARE's actions are timely, proactive and responsive to critical issues.

C-FARE's Volunteer Experts Serve and Support the Agricultural and Applied Economics Profession



Facilitating Webinars, Seminars and Briefings on Timely Topics

C-FARE develops webinars, seminars and briefings. These activities are designed to inform and train stakeholders on the application of economics relevant to current policy issues or legislative initiatives. C-FARE's activities highlight the strengths of economic analysis in multidisciplinary research and education.

Monitoring Federal Policymaking

C-FARE monitors and reports on budgets, bills, legislation, rulemaking, and initiatives under discussion in the federal policymaking arena. C-FARE also develops public comments that encourage federal policy makers and program managers to incorporate applied economic analyses in program development, policy implementation and requests for research.



Engaging Federal Stakeholders and Decision Makers

C-FARE volunteer experts regularly meet with decision makers to provide information on economic research, extension and education, as well as the value of many federal data series.



Nominating Members of the Profession for Policy Advisory Board/Panel Positions

Advisory boards and panels offer opportunities for the profession to broaden its influence. C-FARE enhances the presence of food, agricultural, and resource economists on key federal advisory boards.

Providing Information to Students and Young Professionals

C-FARE's intern briefings and informational updates help support the professional growth of the next generation of applied economists. At the briefings, speakers talk about their backgrounds, skills and academic experience. Experts elaborate on experiences and skills they've found necessary to build a career in the private, public or non-profit sectors in Washington.

C-FARE'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

[The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural and applied economics profession, saluted its new directors, chair and continuing members in April.



Andrew Muhammad



Luis Ribera



Sean B. Cash

C-FARE's new directors are:

- Andrew Muhammad, University of Tennessee
- Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University
- Sean B. Cash, Tufts University

"As professionals, we evaluate whether public and private policy accomplishes the desired outcomes and investigate unintended consequences of actions," Cash said, and C-FARE highlights the investigations and evaluations.

C-FARE also welcomes new program committee members:

- Chyi Lyi Liang, North Carolina A&T State University
- Molly Brant, Arkansas Tech University

Spiro Stefanou was named the council's new chairman

- Stephan Goetz, Penn State – Vice Chairman
- Daniel Lass, University of Massachusetts, Amherst – Treasurer
- Roger Coupal, University of Wyoming – Past Chairman
- Deacue Fields, University of Arkansas
- Gal Hochman, Rutgers University
- John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation
- Cynthia Clark, retired, National Agricultural Statistics Service

"C-FARE has been crucial to connecting agricultural economists and related professionals with decision and policy makers at the federal level," Muhammed said. "As an agricultural economist, I have benefited from the work of C-FARE."

C-FARE'S EVENTS, PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

C-FARE Exclusive Webinars

Webinar, February 8

Farm Economy Update: Producer and Stakeholder Response to Volatile Markets

An American Farm Bureau director and three researchers discussed the current condition of the farm economy, approaches for communicating and assisting farmers, and policy research.

Moderator

John Newton, director of market intelligence at the American Farm Bureau Federation

Presenters

- Carrie Litkowski, farm income lead at the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS)
- Allen Featherstone, department head, professor, and director of Kansas State University's Master in Agribusiness program
- Todd Kuethe, clinical assistant professor at the University of Illinois

Sponsored by C-FARE, the AAEA, the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research, and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP).



Webinar, June 5

China's Foreign Agriculture Investments and Trade
Sponsored by C-FARE and the USDA Economists' Group

Presenters

- Fred Gale of the USDA ERS
- Elizabeth Gooch of the USDA ERS

While the United States is the largest supplier of China's agricultural imports, it has not been a major target of Chinese agricultural investment. Over 1,300 Chinese enterprises had overseas investments in agriculture, forestry, fishing, processing, farm machinery, inputs, seeds, and logistics at the end of 2016. Their broad aims are to achieve profits for Chinese investors while achieving national food security and projecting China's influence abroad.

Webinar, June 13

Implications of a Changing Farm Workforce for U.S. Agriculture — Escalating Labor Costs Over the Next Decade Sponsored by C-FARE and the USDA Economists Group

The average hourly wage of hired farmworkers has risen to about \$12.50/hour and is expected to climb. Meanwhile, net migration from Mexico has run negative since the recession though farm employment has been rising. Yet, despite rising hourly wages, labor costs as a share of gross revenues haven't risen, but wage growth may

still force farmers to adopt new (old) strategies like premium products, local food and fair wage promotion, robotics, and less labor-intensive crops. Guest Chris Burns, a vice president for programming for the USDA Economists Group, joined us.

Presenters

- Tom Hertz, labor economist, USDA ERS
- Chris Schulte, attorney, C.J. Lake, LLC
- Jennifer Ifft, assistant professor, farm and agribusiness management, Cornell University

Webinar, June 26

Pollinator Economics in the U.S. — Demands, Costs and Logistics

Sponsored by C-FARE and the USDA Economists Group

Since 2006, winter losses of managed honeybee colonies in the United States have averaged 29 percent, approximately double the 15 percent historical rate. These elevated losses have raised concerns that agricultural and food supply chains will suffer disruptions. Among pollinated crops, almonds and plums have had the largest

increases in pollination service fees, rising about 2.5 and 2.4 times, respectively, in real (inflation-adjusted) terms since the early 1990s.

Moderator

- Val Dolcini, president and CEO of the Pollinator Partnership

Presenters

- Brittney Goodrich, assistant professor of agricultural economics and rural sociology, Auburn University
- Peyton Ferrier, economist at the USDA ERS

Webinar, June 27

Enhancing Economic and Social Solutions for Impactful Agricultural and Food Research Sponsored by C-FARE

Economics is about more than money changing hands. It's about consumer, industry, and agency behavior and how we leverage value to pursue multiple goals. Agricultural and applied economics makes significant contributions to this field, which is a shared investigative priority of C-FARE and NIFA. Guest Robbin Shoemaker, a national program

leader in economics at the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, joined us.

Presenters

- Sean Cash, Bergstrom Foundation Professor of Global Nutrition at Tufts University
- Mark Partridge, the C. William Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at Ohio State University
- Wally Tyner, who died Aug. 17, 2019, was an endowed chair at Purdue University

INTERN EVENT SERIES

Summer 2018 Intern Briefings

Careers on Capitol Hill, in Agencies and NGO's

Sponsored by C-FARE

July 13, July 20 & Aug. 7

C-FARE invited interested students interning in Washington over the summer to participate in our Summer 2018 Intern Briefings which focused on careers on Capitol Hill and in agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The events were designed to allow students to hear from professionals who have received a degree in agricultural, natural resources or applied economics about their career paths and other details regarding the necessary background to succeed in the nation's capital. Students learned about more than eight USDA agencies and networked with early career professional faculty members and other agricultural economists who are pursuing advanced degrees.

C-FARE and NAAEA Friend of Agricultural Economics Awards Presentation

March 20

Awards for professional excellence in agricultural and applied economics were presented to students, early career professionals and experienced members at the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's annual meeting during the AAEA Awards and Fellows ceremony.

USDA AGENCIES TOUR

Aug. 8

The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA), Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE), and the USDA Economists Group hosted a USDA agencies tour as a coda to the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). The aim is to give early career professionals and young leaders in agriculture exposure to USDA agencies. Agency leaders have expertise in agricultural economics, statistics and policy analysis. It is an unprecedented event featuring USDA agencies.



Coalition Building, May 2018

The council, per its memorandum of understanding with the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, held activities and meetings with the following groups and coalitions:

- The Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis
- National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
- AFRI Coalition
- Supporters of Agricultural Research
- USDA Agencies Tour

C-FARE Twitter and YouTube Engagement

In the year 2018, the council produced six full-length webinars ready to upload to its YouTube channel, but its main news channel by impressions was Twitter. Its @CFAREcon account followed roughly a thousand others, and was followed by roughly 700 at year's end. @CFAREcon tweeted nearly 100 times and retweeted many hundreds of other news posts promoting and sharing associated and co-oriented agricultural and applied economics groups and individuals.



C-FARE'S 2018 STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association

National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators

Regional economic associations such as the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)

American Farm Bureau Federation

Office of the Chief Economist

Economic Research Service

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



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