



2019 Annual Report

Trusted counsel for a shifting farm economy

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

Goal 2: Significantly increase the understanding that public and federal program audiences have of the value of food, agricultural, resource and applied economics information and analysis.

Goal 3: Maintain and increase resources and opportunities that support agricultural and applied economics research, outreach and education.

Goal 4: Foster opportunities to build human capital for a vibrant 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/or 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 federal policymaking circles. C-FARE also nurtures public comments that encourage federal policy and programs that 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 the importance of 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 seeks to enhance 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 \(C-FARE\)](#) publicly thanked its board of directors — saluting its new directors and thanking those who rotated off — in a news release Dec. 17 and a web post at [CFARE.org](#). In 2019, the volunteer organization strove to advance the non-profit's dedication to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural and applied economics profession.

C-FARE's directors provide leadership, governance and oversight of the organization and its programming.

C-FARE added three professors to its [board of directors](#):

- [Duncan M. Chembezi](#), Alabama A&M University
- [Jane Kolodinsky](#), University of Vermont
- [Barry J. Barnett](#), University of Kentucky

"In tight budget times, it's imperative policymakers and other funders understand our value proposition," Barnett said. "C-FARE ensures that the knowledge generated by agricultural and applied economists is effectively communicated to the broader agricultural policy community."

C-FARE thanked its veteran board members who rotated off in 2019:

- [Stephan Goetz](#), Pennsylvania State University
- [Deacue Fields](#), University of Arkansas
- [Dan Lass](#), University of Massachusetts

University of Florida food and resource economist Spiro Stefanou continued in his capacity as board chair.

"C-FARE's board is a volunteer effort which serves an important role in guiding our policy education activities," Stefanou said.



Duncan M. Chembezi



Jane Kolodinsky



Barry J. Barnett

C-FARE'S EVENTS, PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

[Refer to the "The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics" YouTube channel to view full webinars and more.](#)

WEBINAR, July 26

Food Labeling and New Food Technology

Moderator:

- [Sean B. Cash](#), Tufts University

Presenters:

- [Nicole Negowetti](#), Harvard Law School
- [Jane Kolodinsky](#), University of Vermont
- [Sean B. Cash](#), Tufts University

The United States Congress passed Public Law 114-216 three years ago requiring the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for genetically engineered (GE) foods. In addition to labeling, the USDA announced March 7, 2019 that they had, in partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), established a framework for regulating cell-based meat and poultry. The law preempts states from setting their own standards for mandatory GE labels. Our experts discussed the impacts of these changes in market information on consumers, the supply chain and producers.



WEBINAR, Sept. 9

Current Trends in U.S. Farm Income, Volatility, and Farmland Values

Presenters:

- [Carrie Litkowski](#), USDA Economic Research Service
- [John Newton](#), American Farm Bureau Federation
- [Allen Featherstone](#), Kansas State University

Over the last decade, the agricultural economy has changed dramatically, with consecutive year-on-year declines in farm income despite strong crop and livestock yields. In 2019, farm income was expected to hover at little more than half the income just six years earlier, \$123.8 billion. Producers continue to spend down cash savings and liquidate inventories. These factors and others are pushing many farmers out of farming. The presenters discussed the current condition, approaches for communicating and assisting farmers, and the latest policy research and recommendations.

C-FARE'S EVENTS, PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

WEBINAR, Sept. 20

*Changes in the Multilateral Trading System:
Impacts to U.S. Agriculture*

Moderator:

- [Ian Sheldon](#), Ohio State University

Presenters:

- [Amanda Countryman](#), Colorado State University
- [Joe Glauber](#), IFPRI
- [Jason Grant](#), Virginia Tech

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has been a very successful system for the governance of international trade, progressively lowering tariffs and stimulating trade growth. The moderator and presenters considered how the United States' current trade policy may change the global agricultural trading system. Tariffs by the U.S. have resulted in extensive international retaliation by competitors, notably new levies on U.S. agricultural exports such as soybeans, corn, wheat and processed pork. Future changes to U.S. trade policy, therefore, will impact WTO dispute resolution as well as U.S. agriculture in export markets.



WEBINAR, Sept. 24

A Growing Population: Hispanic Farmers in the Midwest

Presenters:

- [Maria Elba Rodriguez-Alcala](#), University of Missouri
- [Corinne Valdivia](#), University of Missouri
- [Stephen C. Jeanetta](#), University of Missouri

The nation's farmland and farmers continue to decrease, but Hispanic farm operators are growing, according to the USDA's [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\) Census of Agriculture](#). The panel probed why such farmers begin their own farming operations, what factors impact their success, and what networks of support they nurture. Research and funding opportunities can be designed in ways that connect Hispanic agricultural enterprises to the organizations, institutions and policies that exist to support farming nationally.

C-FARE'S EVENTS, PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

WEBINAR, October 7

Livestock Update: Market Developments, Policy and Reporting

Presenters:

- [Michael Nepveux](#), American Farm Bureau Federation
- [Glynn Tonsor](#), Kansas State University

There are several factors leading to uncertainty in livestock markets, including supply-chain disruptions and trade policy. Two experts provided a briefing inside Longworth House Office Building on livestock market reporting and disruptions, Federal Milk Marketing Orders, and the global trade environment for animal proteins. Nepveux and Tonsor offered context for the factors contributing to the continued vitality of the livestock sector, as well as information about impending policy choices.



NAAEA MEETING, October 28

C-FARE facilitated the biennial meeting of the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA), the preeminent organization of administrators of university departments, foundations, and public agencies that support agricultural and resource economics and agribusiness management.

[AAEA President Keith Coble](#) attended, and the assembled discussed federal funding,

policy, communication and media pitching. Program leaders from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Science Foundation visited, as did [Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research \(FFAR\) Director Sally Rockey](#) and [Jerry Hagstrom](#), agribusiness reporter for the National Journal.

CAPITOL HILL BRIEFINGS, October 29

Congressional Visits Day

Members of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics paid visits to 17 U.S. representatives, including [Rep. Sanford Bishop](#) (D-Ga.) and [Rep. Vicky Hartzler](#) (R-Mo.), and more than three dozen Senate offices in Washington. These university professors and department heads, representing about 20

land-grant universities, used the opportunity to discuss new research directions, current challenges facing farm budgets and operations, and the future of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) and [Economic Research Service](#) offices.

C-FARE'S EVENTS, PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

JON BRANDT PUBLIC POLICY FORUM, October 29

Approaches for Bolstering Rural America's Future: A Spotlight on Infrastructure, Entrepreneurship and Rural Health.

Sponsored and coordinated by C-FARE, the AAEA and the AAEA Trust

Moderator:

- [Tim Marema](#), the [Daily Yonder](#)

Panelists:

- [Joy Moten-Thomas](#), Fort Valley State University
- [Corianne Scally](#), the Urban Institute
- [Alison Davis](#), the University of Kentucky
- [Roberto Gallardo](#), Purdue University.

Access to health care, affordable housing, high-speed internet and economic development are not unique to the countryside, but rural geography creates unique constraints to addressing these challenges. The panel discussion inside the House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee hearing room ranged from the shifting business models (and closure) of rural hospitals, university Extension offices' efforts, housing in small communities and rural broadband internet. [A video of the forum](#) was produced and is available on [C-FARE's YouTube channel](#).



WEBINAR, November 1

Local Food Procurement: A Catalyst for Small Farm Economics

Moderator:

- [Jeff O'Hara](#), agricultural marketing specialist at the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service

Presenters:

- [Dawn Thilmany](#), Colorado State University
- [Becca Jablonski](#), Colorado State University

Household and commercial buyers are willing to pay a premium for local products, it appears. Families shop at farmers markets, school districts stock locally grown provisions, and restaurants curate seasonal menus in part to support the vitality of local growers. Agricultural economists discussed what it takes to make a successful local farm economy, weighed what effect new farming can have on rural development, and considered the impact "buy local" can have on farmers' and ranchers' viability.

COALITION BUILDING 2019

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 2019, C-FARE added seven video features to its YouTube channel, including five full-length webinars and the entirety of the Jon Brandt Public Policy Forum. It continued to grow its Twitter following, from about 700 at the start of the year to roughly 775, or more than 10%. C-FARE garnered nearly 1,143 impressions for tweets in the month of March, but in November, immediately following a two-day Washington visit and publicized forum, impressions jumped to nearly 16,000. Meanwhile, the council grew its Facebook presence, nearly doubling the number of posts (35) and consistently more than doubling its organic reach and click-through rates. By year's end, Facebook followers numbered 417, up from 387.



C-FARE'S 2019 STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators
American Farm Bureau Federation
Office of the Chief Economist
Economic Research Service
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Regional economic associations such as the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA)
and the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

CONTACT US

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and Resource Economics

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