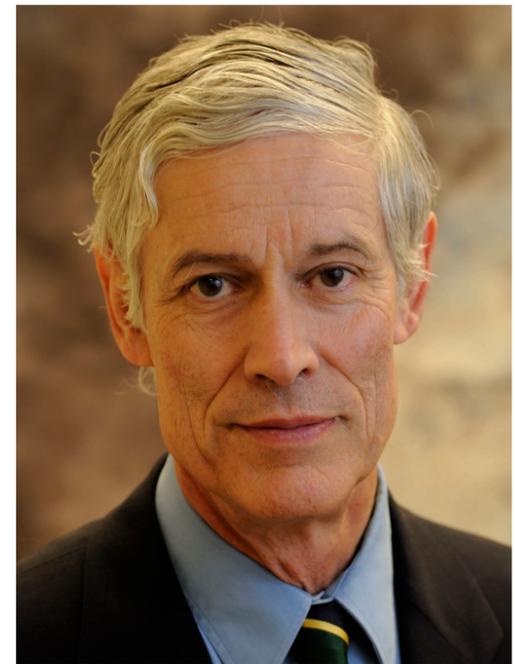


Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

Otto C. Doering III

Otto Doering arrived at Purdue Thanksgiving Day 1972 in a loaded station wagon with his wife Barbara, two small children, and a border collie who was reluctant to leave New York. Purdue was attractive because of its tradition of public policy involvement. Before Purdue, he worked in the New York City Municipal Courts, as a wrangler in the Canadian Rockies and for the Ford Foundation in Southeast Asia. His career has encompassed public policy issues as seen by someone trained at Cornell and the LSE in government, public administration, and agricultural economics. This has included agricultural policy, energy issues, climate change, and water resource issues.



In Indiana, he began the State Utility Forecasting Group, served on the state's Energy Development Board, the State Farmland Protection Committee, the Commission for Higher Education, and was Chair of the State Transfer and Articulation Committee. National service included sabbaticals to serve in the Secretary of Agriculture's policy group, the Economic Research Service, and the Resource Economics and Social Sciences group in NRCS. He also had sabbaticals at Berkeley, Cornell, and North Carolina A&T. He advised the Departments of Energy and Interior. He is a member of EPA's Science Advisory Board chairing its Agricultural Science Committee. He was co-author of a number of National Academy studies, served on the Academies' Water Science and Technology Board, and was a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. For over 25 years, he was an evaluator for the NSF's Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers program.

Otto brought Ag Econ 250, the Economic Geography of World food and Resources from Cornell to Purdue. Several thousand Purdue undergraduates have been through the history, economics and geography of why things are done where they are done around the world. For some, his digressions into other issues and personal experiences were more interesting than Ricardian trade theory. In the 1970s, Purdue graduate students redesigned their research methods class, Ag Econ 602, which Otto taught. This class stresses the application of research methods to policy problems. The requirement that 602 students attend concerts stems from Otto's experience as a recording engineer and his concert attendance as a student in London. He is one of few economists published in both *Speaker Builder Magazine* and the *Bell Journal of Economics*.

Otto's research contributions were as leader or contributor in multi-disciplinary integrated research efforts that included energy flows in agriculture, the National Hypoxia Assessment, climate change impacts on agriculture, and managing excess reactive nitrogen. He directed several Purdue research centers. His service, outreach, research, and teaching were integrated in the Land Grant tradition. Otto led several professional associations and received numerous awards. Some awards meaningful to him are the IRRI Rice Production Course Certificate awarded by the developers of the Green Revolution's miracle rice varieties, the 'Border Collie Award' for successfully shepherding his last NSF center, and the Skunk at the Picnic Award from his colleagues at NRCS "for taking on the status quo, challenging conventional wisdom, and provoking original thought."