

Agenda

10:00 a.m. -10:45 a.m. **Introduction and information sharing**

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Future of Farming**

Dr. Trey Malone, Associate Professor and Boehlje Chair in Managerial Economics for Agribusiness

Dr. Chad Fiechter, Assistant Professor Agricultural Economics

Dr. Mike Boehlje, Professor Emeritus, Department of Agricultural Economics

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch Break**

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Agrivoltaic Farming Systems**

Dr. Mitch Tuinstra, Professor of Plant Breeding and Wickersham Chair of Excellence

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Break**

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Solar Contracts and associated economics**

Dr. Juan Sesmero, Professor of Agricultural Economics

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 pm **Wrap up, explore topics and dates for future meetings**

Speaker Bio

Dr. Trey Malone Dr. Malone is an agri-food economist whose primary research interests are agribusiness entrepreneurship and public policy impacts on agri-food supply chains. He has published over 60 research articles in outlets including *Food Policy*, *Journal of Business Venturing Insights*, and the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. He and the students he has advised have collectively received dozens of awards and fellowships, including the Emerging Scholar Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Research and Communication from the Food Distribution Research Society. Dr. Malone's research has been funded by high-profile agencies such as the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the World Wildlife Fund. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University and his bachelor's from Rockhurst University. His insights have been featured in popular press outlets, including the New York Times, *TIME Magazine*, *CNBC*, *CNN*, *USA Today*, *Fast Company*, and *Popular Science*.

Dr. Chad Fiechter Dr. Fiechter is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Finance in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. After spending nearly a decade farming in Northeastern Indiana, Chad returned to graduate school; first to Cornell University for a MS degree and then Purdue for his PhD. Chad's farming experience motivates and informs his research, teaching, and outreach on agricultural finance, farm/agribusiness management, and agricultural policy. Chad lives in West Lafayette with his wife, Christen, and their son, Wilder, and twin daughters, Elbee and Suri. As a family, whenever Indiana weather allows, they prefer to be outside.

Dr. Mike Boehlje Dr. Boehlje is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Economics. He has devoted his career to helping farm and agribusiness managers and policymakers understand the pragmatic economic and financial consequences of their decisions. The fundamental focus of his work has been to integrate concepts of economics, finance and strategy to solve problems of farm and agribusiness managers. His work has attempted to extend and apply modern management concepts of systems analysis, process control, transactions cost, strategic positioning, real options and supply/value chain management to the food production, processing and distribution system.

Dr. Mitch Tuinstra Dr. Mitch Tuinstra is the Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research and Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. He studies how crop plants grow in stressful environments. Although farmers have faced the challenges of droughts and heat waves for thousands of years, there is mounting concern that changes in our climate may hamper agricultural productivity in the United States and around the world. Dr. Tuinstra and his collaborators are responding to these concerns with efforts to develop "climate resilient" cultivars of maize and sorghum that will contribute to the adaptation of agriculture to warmer and drier environments. His research focuses on identifying genes and genetic resources that contribute to improved crop performance in stressful environments. This work is done in collaboration with scientists and breeders in North America, Africa and Asia.

Dr. Juan Sesmero Dr. Sesmero is a Professor in the Agricultural Economics Department at Purdue University. Juan's research and teaching activities are focused primarily on the economics of competition in agricultural markets, and the adoption and impact of digital agricultural technologies against the backdrop of a changing climate. Juan's research received support through multiple grants from USDA-NIFA and the National Science Foundation, among other agencies. Juan's research integrates theory, laboratory experiments, and econometrics to elucidate the intricate mechanisms governing the agricultural and food supply chain, driving forward our comprehension of its efficiency and distributional impacts.